

HYDRANGEA IN NEBRASKA

There are four main species of hydrangea that can be cultivated in our part of the Midwest. They are *arborescens* (smooth), *paniculata* (*grandiflora*), *quercifolia* (oakleaf), and *macrophylla* (bigleaf) hydrangeas.

Arborescens (Smooth) Hydrangea

Annabelle matures into an impressive, dense, mounded specimen. The dark green leaves compliment apple green to white rounded whorls of blooms often 4-6" across. The plant is well adapted to full sun or shade, Grows 3-5' tall and wide. Cut to 6-8" from the ground in the late fall. This is the lowest maintenance hydrangea to grow in the Omaha area. It almost always blooms prolifically on new wood. *Invincible Spirit* is a pink flowering arborescens. The blooms are smaller (baseball size) but numerous on a sturdy 4-5' tall and wide shrub. A portion of every sale goes to Breast Cancer Research. The third cultivar of arborescens we offer is *Incrediball*. It's huge blooms resemble *Annabelle*. The heads are stupendously large, white blooms that sometimes grow to as much as 10-12" across and are supported on sturdy stems that do not flop. They make a great cut flower.

Paniculata (Grandiflora) Hydrangea

Quick Fire (6-8' tall and wide), *PeeGee* (10-15'), *Pinky Winky* (6-8'), *BoBo* (3-4'), *Limelight* (6-8' tall and 5-6' wide), *Little Lamb* (4-6'), *Little Lime* (3-5'), and *Little Quick Fire* (3-5') are some of our more popular varieties. The nursery market continues to expand the inventory of Paniculata Hydrangea with new introductions yearly. Paniculata hydrangeas will grow and bloom with ease in the metro area, and performs best if it is grown in partial or full sun. All Paniculata hydrangea are tolerant of pruning, and can be pruned anytime except when they begin forming bloom heads in summer. This cultivar can also be trimmed and trained into a tree form.



Quercifolia (Oakleaf) Hydrangea

This beautiful hydrangea makes a dramatic show if grown in light shade. It is hardy through zone 5 (Omaha). It produces large dark green 8" long leaves that turn a rich burgundy in the fall. Magnificent large white flowers are often tinged in pink in the late summer. The bark peels off in papery, light brown to cinnamon-brown strips. This hydrangea requires well-drained, acidic, organic-laden soil in a sunny site. It absolutely will not survive in heavy wet soils. Pruning is not required unless you want to control the size or direct the shape of the shrub. The best time to prune is after the flowers fade in late fall

All of these hydrangeas will perform their best in well-amended soils and regular fertilizing in the spring and early summer. We recommend *Gardener's Special*.

***Macrophylla* (Bigleaf) Hydrangea are addressed under their own care sheet because they are much more demanding to achieve blooming and vigor. Please refer to the Lanoha Nurseries guide titled *Hydrangea Macrophylla* (Bigleaf Hydrangea) for this information.**