WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?

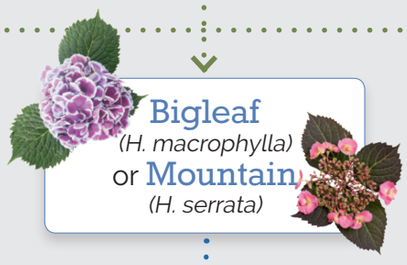
Which hydrangea do you grow?
(see reverse)

Smooth
(H. arborescens)
or **Panicle**
(H. paniculata)

How long ago did you plant it?

- **< 2 years** → Needs more time to develop a root system. Mulch and keep well watered; it will bloom in time.
- **2+ years** → How much light does it get?
  - **4+ hours** → Did you cut it back?
    - **Yes** → When?
      - **fall** → Deer damage or low light
      - **late spring/ summer** → Buds removed - blooming may be delayed or not occur. Prune in late winter or early spring.
    - **No** → Deer damage or low light
  - **< 4 hours** → Needs more sun

Bigleaf
(H. macrophylla)
or **Mountain**
(H. serrata)



Did you cut it back?

- **Yes** → Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.
- **No** → Do you live in a cold climate?
  - **Yes** → Flower buds were killed by cold. Move to a more protected spot; protect plant on spring nights when frost or freeze threatens.
  - **No** → Too much shade or deer damage

But it's a reblooming hydrangea!

Not all reblooming hydrangeas are equal - some need to reach a certain height to set new wood buds. Let's Dance® reblooming hydrangeas were developed to bloom sooner.

Climbing
(H. petiolaris)
or **Oakleaf**
(H. quercifolia)

How old is the plant?

- **< 5 years** → These plants tend to need to be more mature to flower well. Give them more time.
- **5+ years** → Did you cut it back?
  - **Yes** → Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning.
  - **No** → Deer damage or low light

Still have questions about hydrangeas or other Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs? We're here to help you be successful in the garden! Visit www.provenwinners.com/feedback.

PROVEN WINNERS®
COLOR CHOICE® FLOWERING SHRUBS

HYDRANGEAS DEMYSTIFIED

Which hydrangea do you grow?

There are six main types of hydrangeas commonly grown in North American gardens.

Hydrangea Fun Fact There are about 49 species of hydrangeas. Four species are native to North America, including smooth hydrangea and oakleaf hydrangea.

Bigleaf

(also known as florist's hydrangea, hortensia, mophead, or lacecap)

Hydrangea macrophylla

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, protect in winter

Proven Winners® varieties: ABRACADABRA® series, CITYLINE® series, EDGY® Hearts, LET'S DANCE® series, PARAPLU®

Panicle

(also known as peegee hydrangea)

Hydrangea paniculata

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties: BOBO®, FIRE LIGHT®, 'Limelight', LITTLE LIME®, 'Little Lamb', PINKY WINKY®, QUICK FIRE®, LITTLE QUICK FIRE®, ZINFIN DOLL™

Smooth

(also known as Annabelle hydrangea)

Hydrangea arborescens

- Hardy to USDA zone 3
- Bloom on new wood: prune in late winter/early spring

Proven Winners® varieties: INCREDIBALL® series, INVINCIBELLE® Spirit series

Climbing

Hydrangea petiolaris

- Hardy to USDA zone 4
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

Mountain

Hydrangea serrata

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune

Proven Winners® varieties: TUFF STUFF™ series

Oakleaf

Hydrangea quercifolia

- Hardy to USDA zone 5
- Bloom on old wood: do not prune, protect in winter

Proven Winners® varieties: GATSBY™ series

Color

All hydrangeas undergo some color change as their flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

- Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The rich red blooms of CITYLINE® Paris hydrangea are a good example. Similarly, white varieties of bigleaf hydrangea will not change color.
- It is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than from blue to pink, but both endeavors involve making chemical application in specific amounts at specific times. A soil test is necessary to determine the best course of action. If you decide to try to change the flower color, shop for products carefully and read all directions.
- Pennies, nails, aluminum foil, or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

Tips for Success

- Moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- Some sun each day. Most people think of hydrangeas as shade plants, but they look and flower best with at least four hours of sun, ideally in the morning. Panicle hydrangeas are the most sun tolerant, and can take full sun in northern climates.
- Plenty of water, especially as they are getting established. Hydrangeas have shallow roots, so they dry out quickly. A two to three inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

Hydrangea Fun Fact Hydrangeas are notoriously water-needy, but the "hydra" part of their name actually refers to the seed capsules' resemblance to ancient Greek water-carrying vessels.