

WHY ISN'T MY HYDRANGEA BLOOMING?

From www.provenwinners.com

Which hydrangea do you grow? (see below to identify)

Smooth or Panicle	Bigleaf or Mountain	Climbing or Oakleaf
<p><u>How long ago did you plant it?</u> <u>-2 yrs:</u> Needs more time to develop a root system. Mulch and keep well watered. It will bloom in time. <u>2+ years:</u> How much light does it get? <u>-4 hours:</u> needs more sun <u>4+ hours</u> – may be low light, deer damage or pruned in wrong season. Prune in late winter or early spring to avoid removing buds.</p>	<p><u>Did you cut it back?</u> <u>Yes:</u> Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning. <u>No:</u> Flower buds could have been killed by cold. Protect plant on spring nights when frost or freeze threatens. Could be in too much shade or deer damage. <u>Reblooming hydrangea?</u> Not all reblooming hydrangeas are equal. Some need to reach a certain height to set new wood buds.</p>	<p><u>How old is the plant?</u> <u>-5 years:</u> These plants tend to need to be more mature to flower well. <u>5+ years:</u> Did you cut it back? <u>Yes:</u> Oops! You cut off the flower buds. Avoid pruning. <u>No:</u> Deer damage or low light.</p>

BIGLEAF – *Hydrangea macrophylla* (also known as florist’s hydrangea, hortensia, mophead or lacecap)

- Hardy to zone 5
- Blooms on old wood. Do not prune. May benefit from winter protection.

PANICLE – *Hydrangea paniculata* (also known as peegee hydrangea)

- Hardy to zone 3
- Blooms on new wood. Prune in late winter/early spring.

SMOOTH – *Hydrangea arborescens* (also known as Annabelle hydrangea)

- Hardy to zone 3
- Blooms on new wood. Prune in late winter/early spring.

CLIMBING – *Hydrangea petiolaris*

- Hardy to zone 4
- Blooms on old wood. Do not prune.

MOUNTAIN – *Hydrangea serrata*

- Hardy to zone 5
- Blooms on old wood. Do not prune.

OAKLEAF – *Hydrangea quercifolia*

- Hardy to zone 5
- Blooms on old wood. Do not prune.
- May benefit from winter protection.

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!

GROWING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Plant in moist but well-drained soil (hydrangeas will not tolerate wet feet – ever!)
- Some sun each day is ideal. 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 2-3 inch layer of shredded bark mulch is a useful addition to any hydrangea planting.

FUN FACTS

- There are about 49 species of hydrangeas. Four species are native to North America including smooth hydrangea and oakleaf hydrangea.
- 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.