

Hydrangea Cheat Sheet

There are three basic types of Hydrangeas for central Minnesota



Hydrangea *arborescens*

These are the “old fashioned” or “mophead” Hydrangeas such as the popular ‘Annabelle’ or its cousin ‘Invincibelle’. They do best in morning sun and afternoon shade, not full hot sun like other Hydrangea types. *Hydrangea arborescens* will not turn pink as they mature. They stay true to their white color until they are spent. Typical size ranges from 3-5 foot. They spread underground and can be divided as needed. Prune *Hydrangea arborescens* as you would a perennial, leaving 6-10 inches of stem above ground.

-Popular varieties: Annabelle, Invincibelle, Incrediball, Flowerfull



Hydrangea *paniculata*

There are many different varieties of *paniculata* available in our area. They range in height from 3-8 feet and prefer hot sun. They will do ok in less light but you risk them being less floriferous. *Hydrangea paniculata* emerge from the ground on one sturdy stalk and branch out from there. They will form their new growth on old wood from previous years. This makes proper pruning very important. A solid 1/3 should be pruned after they are done blooming. Their blooms range in color from lime green to deep pink or white. Almost all *paniculata* varieties will turn pink as they mature and will often keep their pink color when dried.

-Popular varieties: Berry White, Bobo, Fire & Ice, (Little) Limelight, Little Hottie, (Little) Quick Fire, White Diamonds, Diamond Rouge



Hydrangea *macrophylla* ‘Endless Summer’

Hydrangea macrophylla ranges in size from 2-3 foot and its color is dependent upon the pH of the soil while they are setting bud (during the “broccoli” stage). If they have a higher pH (alkaline) soil, their blooms will be pink. If they have a lower pH (acidic) soil, their blooms will be blue. Ensuring a blue ‘Endless Summer’ means adding a granular acidic fertilizer twice during the growing season. ‘Endless Summer’ will send out fewer blooms at a time, but for a longer period throughout the growing season. They bloom on new and old wood, so prune just enough in the fall to shape them and remove spent blooms. *Hydrangea macrophylla* varieties prefer a protected location with morning sun and afternoon shade.

-Other popular varieties: Bloomstruck, Eclipse, Pop Star, Summer Crush