

Hydrangea Seminar

Hydrangea Performance in Ottawa Area

www.knippelgardencentre.com



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Hydrangea Types

- ▶ We will focus on the tried and true - plants that will thrive in your garden
- ▶ *Hydrangea paniculata*
- ▶ *Hydrangea arborescens*
- ▶ *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*
- ▶ *Hydrangea macrophylla*
- ▶ *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf)



Hydrangea Paniculata - Little Lime Punch



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PLANTING AND CARE

- ▶ After removing from the pot, massage the roots or use a knife to make a few slits - This action will allow for root growth to be stimulated
- ▶ Hydrangeas should be planted no deeper than they already are in the pot
- ▶ The hole should be double the width to allow for the roots to expand
- ▶ Add some 3 Way Mix Soil, bonemeal or mycorrhiza to the planting area
- ▶ Water - Water after planting to remove air pockets - hydrangeas need lots of moisture especially for the first year or two; during drought, hydrangeas will make their needs know - leaves will wilt when the soil is too dry.
- ▶ Most hydrangeas thrive in rich, porous, somewhat moist soils in locations that allow full sun in the morning and some afternoon shade. However, many will thrive in partial shade.



Paniculata Varieties

- ▶ A good choice for the beginner - paniculata varieties have 12-18” flower clusters that open white and then age to various shade of rose
- ▶ Cooler autumn temperatures bring a burnished pink-bronze to their petals
- ▶ Sturdy, reliable, pest-free - the paniculata varieties offer generous blooms from early summer through frost and even into winter.
- ▶ Paniculata varieties are often used for residential, commercial and large area
 - Large ones - 5-7’ and smaller varieties - 3-5’



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Paniculata Hydrangeas -

- ▶ *Limelight* and dwarf *Little Lime* produce cool green flowers throughout the summer that turn a rich deep pink in Fall
- ▶ *Pink Diamond* and *Vanilla Strawberry* have white flowers that turn pink fairly quickly after opening
- ▶ Frilly informal look of some panicles are the result of a combination of fertile florets which are small and closed and infertile ones which have broad sepals that result in large blooms
- ▶ Pure white “*Little Lamb*” has the smallest flower petals and heads of any of the hydrangeas



Hydrangea Paniculata - Limelight



Hydrangea Paniculata - Little Lamb



Paniculata Hydrangeas

Long blooming, July to Fall, large flowerheads

- ▶ Coneshaped blossoms
- ▶ Plants that partner well with Hydrangeas:
- ▶ Russian Sage + Annual Salvia - Season long purples
- ▶ Hardy Roses Parkland & Explorer Series (3 foot range)
- ▶ Chelone (Turtlehead), Monarda, Echinacea - rich pinks
- ▶ Sedum Autumn Joy



Hydrangea Paniculata - Fire Light



Russian Sage



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Hydrangea Petiolaris

- ▶ Climbing Hydrangea - very slow growing, loves a dappled to dense shady area - blooms on old wood; generally pruned to regulate growth and shape to size - Fall pruning
- ▶ Eventually 10 m x 10 m - extremely long lived up to 70 years
- ▶ Glossy, thick heart-shaped leaves showcase the clusters of fragrant, antique, lacey-looking white flowers -
- ▶ Summer bloomer - late June to early July
- ▶ Self clinging habit
- ▶ Copper-coloured bark has winter interest - leaves turn yellow before they fall



Hydrangea Petiolaris



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Standard Hydrangea - Tree Form

- ▶ A standard hydrangea is created by pruning a young shrub to ground level - Once new shoots appear all but the strongest is pruned
- ▶ The one remaining shoot is supported by a bamboo pole and is guided until the desired height is reached - all lateral growth will be pruned off until the desired height is reached
- ▶ Once the single stem is at the desired height it is pruned at the top - this action will force new growth to appear, which will form the lush leafy portion of the tree
- ▶ Same care and pruning as paniculata hydrangeas



Standard Hydrangea - Vanilla Strawberry



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Pruning Tips - Paniculata Hydrangea

- ▶ Since these hydrangeas bloom on new wood, prune half of the new growth each Fall - this will ensure healthy, large blooms
- ▶ Cut the flower head off 1-2 nodes once flower heads are spent



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Arborescens hydrangeas

- ▶ Shade Tolerant
- ▶ Flowers bloom on new wood
- ▶ Easiest to grow out of all the hydrangea types
- ▶ Flower heads start off lime then turn white - new cultivars may have some pink tones
- ▶ Similar to a perennial, arborescens can be pruned to a foot from the ground in the Fall
- ▶ Round blooms



Hydrangea Arborescens -
Invincibelle Ruby



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Annabelle Hydrangea

- ▶ Produces many large, tight, symmetrical blooms in late summer that are up to 14” across. Big balls of sterile flowers from on new wood; these plants can be pruned early Spring or Fall - Shade tolerant, this plant can easily be reduced in size if they outgrow the area. Does not like dry locations.
- ▶ Shade tolerant perennials: Heuchera, Carex, Japanese Painted Fern
- ▶ Very hardy - zone 3 plants



Hydrangea Arborescens - Annabelle



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Macrophylla Varieties Zone 4 and 5

- ▶ Endless Summer - has the unique ability to bloom on new and old wood consistently producing flowers all summer. Varieties that bloom on old growth are a challenge in Eastern Ontario. This is because their flower buds set in the Fall - are easily damaged by frosts or excessively cold winter temperatures, resulting in inconsistent flowering or no flowering at all. Most varieties in the 3 foot range.
- ▶ Lacecap varieties are a little hardier than the mophead macrophylla.
- ▶ Do not prune unless absolutely necessary; just enough to tidy up; prune immediately after blooming. Mulch plants in fall - no Fall pruning as typically the old wood dies back in Ottawa.



Hydrangea Arborescens - Endless Summer®



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PH and Macrophylla

- ▶ PH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity in the soil. Most plant nutrients are accessible to a plant at a neutral ph (7). A ph that is too high or too low can prevent plants from absorbing nutrients. For hydrangeas, this is not the case. Their colour is dependant on the concentration of aluminium ions in the soil.
- ▶ Pink or blue blooms are dependant on the acidity of the soil (add Pink Blooms require alkaline soil ph7+ (lime); blue blooms require acidic soil ph 6 or lower (aluminium sulphate) , white blooms are not dependent on ph. Deadheading will encourage new flowers
- ▶ Excessive alkalinity will cause chlorosis or yellow leaves



Hydrangea Quercifolia - Zone 5

- ▶ Blooms on old wood, do not prune. Remove only spent flowers and dead, damaged or unsightly wood.
- ▶ Oakleaf hydrangea - performance in Eastern Ontario can be tricky.
- ▶ Knippel's has not stocked this hydrangea due to its performance.



Hydrangea Quercifolia



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