

Pruning Hydrangeas

Making the right cuts at the right time

Circumstances when pruning can be beneficial:

- Pruning hydrangeas can be used to reduce size yet it is not necessary, especially when the plant is young.
- Any dead stems should be removed from hydrangeas each year.
- With hydrangeas over 5 years old that are not being pruned yearly, rotational pruning can be beneficial. This is done by cutting 1/3 of the older stems down to the ground each summer. This revitalizes and promotes vigorous new growth.
- Snipping old blooms from your hydrangeas is not the same thing as pruning. This is called deadheading which can be done any time of the year for cosmetic purposes.



Technique 1

Use this method for mophead, lacecaps (macrophyllas), and oakleaves (quercifolia)

- This pruning method is for Hydrangeas that bloom on old wood (last year's stems)
- Prune these varieties by August at the latest by cutting stems back 6-8 inches from the ground
- This is critical because mophead, lacecap, and Oakleaf hydrangeas produce buds in August, September, or October for the following summer's blooms.



Technique 2

Use this method for paniculata or arborescens hydrangeas

- This pruning method is for stems that bloom on new wood (this year's stems)
- Prune these varieties in fall or winter
- Arborescens hydrangeas:
 - They may be drastically trimmed back within a few inches from the ground each year
- Paniculata hydrangeas:
 - Pruning is only needed to help promote proper structure or overall size control
 - Can be pruned into a tree form. When doing so, the trunk and main branches should not be pruned.

In order to have the best blooms possible, it is important to correctly identify your hydrangea!