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# S·T·A·B·L·E·S Info Sheet

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## Pruning Hydrangeas

### **Hydrangea paniculata 'Grandiflora'**

This variety of Hydrangea blooms in the summer. It produces large panicles of white flowers, turning pinkish as blooms fade. There are some varieties that have lime green flowers that also have that mauve hue as the flowers fade. These easy to grow plants come in a bush form and a tree form. This class of hydrangeas blooms on new wood, so they can be pruned in spring. You could cut this variety back pretty far and they would still bloom in the summer. If you want the height, just cut off the dead flowers in fall or spring. Hydrangea paniculata prefers a sunny spot in the garden and plenty of water in the hot summer.

### **Hydrangea macrophylla** **Mopheads and Lace Caps**

It's with this category of hydrangeas that there is a lot of confusion when it comes to pruning. It helps to know what variety you planted.

The old fashioned kind like Nikko Blue blooms on old wood. The 'City Line' series also blooms on old wood. Some of the newer varieties like the 'Endless Summer' series, the 'Let's Dance' series and the 'Forever and Ever' series bloom on old and new wood.

Varieties that bloom on old wood set up their flower buds in late summer. These buds are what are going to flower next summer. If you prune this hydrangea after they have set bud, you're cutting off next year's flowers. If you need your hydrangea to stay short, select a dwarf variety like 'Pink Elf' or the 'City Line' series. These only grow to 3' high.

Hydrangea that bloom on new wood set flower buds on the new growth in spring and continue producing buds as the plant sends out new growth all summer long. You can prune these plants in the fall. In spring, flower buds will form and bloom in the summer.

All hydrangea flowers can be cut off after they fade just below the flower.

As a hydrangea matures, you will find dead wood on the inner part of the shrub. This is more noticeable in spring as the new leaves emerge. At this time, prune out any stems that aren't producing leaves. This neatens up the plant and allows the new stems to grow, giving you more flowers year after year.

We've only covered the 2 most popular hydrangea varieties. Other varieties are available like Oak Leaf and Arborescens Hydrangeas. These two types flower on new wood and can be cut back in spring or fall.