

Bigleaf hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla)

General Description

- *Macrophylla* means large- or long-leaved
- Leaves are thick, shiny, coarsely toothed (serrated); 6 to 8 in length
- Deciduous shrub – grows to about 7 ft. tall by 8 ft. broad
- Flowers from early summer to late autumn

Hydrangea Varieties:

Macrophylla has a number of varieties. The **species** is divided into two groups:

- 1) Hortensias (or "mopheads")** have globe-shaped flowers made up of large male flowers, in pink, fuchsia, purple to blue; Commonly grown in garden houses and sold in nurseries and stores
- 2) Normalis (or "Lacecaps")** have flattened flower heads, with central, female blossoms ringed in larger, male blossoms; They are more graceful, and subtle; Treated same way as mopheads.

H. macrophylla

Big Leaf, Mopheads- symmetrical, round, globe shaped and flower in Big Clusters

Endless Beauty and All Summer are hortensia types: Hybrid available since 1998

- Unique ability to bloom on both old and new wood
- Good winter hardiness
- Produces flower buds not only in fall but new growth in Spring and summer
- Repeated blooms from July thru fall

Other Hortensias

Ayesha- has a slight fragrance; originates in a creamy color and develops into pink or blue Cupped flowers

Buttons n Bows: Grows only to about 3-4 ft tall and wide with deep pink flowers featuring **white-edged petals**

H macrophylla normalis

Lace Cap: Outer Ring of sterile flowers that last for months

Varietals:

Shooting Star: double white flowers- Sold during holidays and 4th of July

Lanarth white: -has 4 petals with a blue or green center;

Grows to 3-4 ft wide

Blue Wave-light blue to pink flowers (petals)

Old Wood Bloomers:

- Macrophylla H are “old wood” bloomers.
- Flowers bloom on stems if they have been on the plant since the summer before the current season. (stems are brown and woody).
- Bloom buds on old wood bloomers start developing in August and September after the plant finishes blooming.
- One exception is “Endless Blooming” and “All Summer Beauty” varietals; Produces flowers on BOTH **old** and **new** wood. Repeat Blooms July thru Fall

Conclusion:

- All macrophylla hydrangeas grow about to the same height and width, like the same soil, and fertilization. They are hardy, easy to grow, like shade and add beauty and color to your gardens!