

Hydrangeas Pruning for Blooms



Full sun or partial shade, depending on the cultivar. Avoid hot, dry, sites. Moist, well drained soil enriched with organic matter. Mulch with 2-3 inches of bark mulch or other organic mulch to conserve moisture.

Why is my Hydrangea plant not blooming? It could be either too much shade, improper pruning, or Winter damage to stems or frost damage to flower buds-especially likely with bigleaf hydrangeas.

Hydrangea Type	Best time to prune	Zones	Notes
Mountain Hydrangea <i>H. marcophylla</i> var. <i>serrata</i>	Right after bloom, in summer, prune winter damaged stems in late spring, after left-out	5-9	Blooms in spring early summer, then flower buds produced summer growth
Smooth Hydrangea <i>H. arborescens</i>	Late winter, early spring before leaf-out, can cut back to 6"-12" above ground	4-9	Flower buds produced in spring early summer then mid summer blooms
Panicle Hydrangea <i>H. paniculata</i>	Late winter, early spring, before leaf-out	4-7	Flower buds produced on spring growth then mid summer blooms
Oakleaf Hydrangea <i>H. quercifolia</i>	Right after bloom, in summer, prune winter damaged stems in late spring, after left-out	5-6	Blooms early summer, then flower buds produced on summer growth
Climbing Hydrangea <i>H. anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i>	Usually not necessary, except to remove damaged wood	5-8	Native to Asia