



## Pruning Hydrangeas



### **Mophead or Lacecap Hydrangeas**

Prune these hydrangeas only in the summer BEFORE August (to be safe).

Hydrangeas that bloom on OLD WOOD. ("Old Wood" are stems that have been on the hydrangea since the summer before the current season. "New wood" are stems that developed on the plant during the current season) This group of hydrangeas produce flower buds on hydrangea stems around August, September or October for the following summer's blooms. If those stems are removed (pruned) in the fall, winter, or spring, the bloom buds will be removed, and there may be little or no bloom the following summer. There is a small group of mophead hydrangea that will bloom no matter when they are pruned. ('Endless Summer' is this type of hydrangea). But for the vast majority of hydrangeas, pruning after July will likely result in fewer blooms the next summer.

### **Paniculatas (PG/Limelight types)**

These Hydrangeas can be pruned in the fall, winter, or spring. However, it is not necessary to prune them every year. The only time they cannot be pruned is in the summer when they are preparing to bloom.



### **arborescens (Annabelle types)**

These types of hydrangeas bloom on new wood (new stems).

The only time they cannot be pruned is in the spring when they are preparing to bloom.

## **Blue or Pink?**



## **Changing the color of hydrangeas**

***WHITE HYDRANGEAS can NOT be changed to pink or blue***

**For hydrangea blooms to be pink**-raise the pH of the soil, shoot for a pH of about 6.0 to 6.2. Add alkaline material. Doing this is called liming, probably because the most common solution is to add Espoma Garden Lime.

**To obtain a blue hydrangea**-the pH of the soil should be low (5.2-5.5)

To lower the pH a source of acid is needed. Espoma Soil Acidifier is a great organic solution.

