

### **Hydrangea quercifolia** (oakleaf hydrangea)

Panicles of white blooms appear from late June into July. Flowers fade to papery mauve and then brown, persisting into the first months of winter.

Older stems display subtly beautiful, exfoliating, copper-colored bark. Bold, coarse foliage, resembling large oak leaves, is a rich, deep green. Fall color ranges from red to orange, with hints of purple. Good for sun or shade, though in heavy shade it will not flower or show fall colors as well. Native to the southeastern United States; grows to 8 feet in height.

This stoloniferous hydrangea spreads by underground shoots that send up small stems. These stems can be pruned out if not desired.

**'Pee Wee'** - Compact form growing 2 to 3 feet tall and wide. North side of Hicks Hall.



*H. quercifolia*  
'Snow Flake'

**'Semmes Beauty'** - Vigorous and heat-tolerant selection with large showy blooms. Scott Entrance Garden.

**'Snow Flake'** - Long panicles of creamy white, double florets that weigh down the branches, creating an arching habit. Hydrangea Collection.

**'Snow Queen'** - White florets fade to a rosy pink. Dark green foliage turns a rich red-bronze in autumn. Rose Garden Circle.

### **Hydrangea serrata** (hydrangea)

The flat-topped corymb is 2 to 4 inches across, with pink or blue fertile flowers. Sterile flowers are pink, blue, or white; sepal margin are slightly serrated. Elliptical light-green leaves sport prominent veins for a quilted look. Leaves are long and thin, with sharply toothed margins.

Referred to as the mountain hydrangea in Japan, this small, upright 5-foot-tall shrub grows best in shaded, moist areas. It can withstand slight drought if in a cool climate.

**'Beni gaku'** - Lavender fertile flowers provide an accent for white sterile flowers that mature to pink and then deepen to rose. Hydrangea Collection.

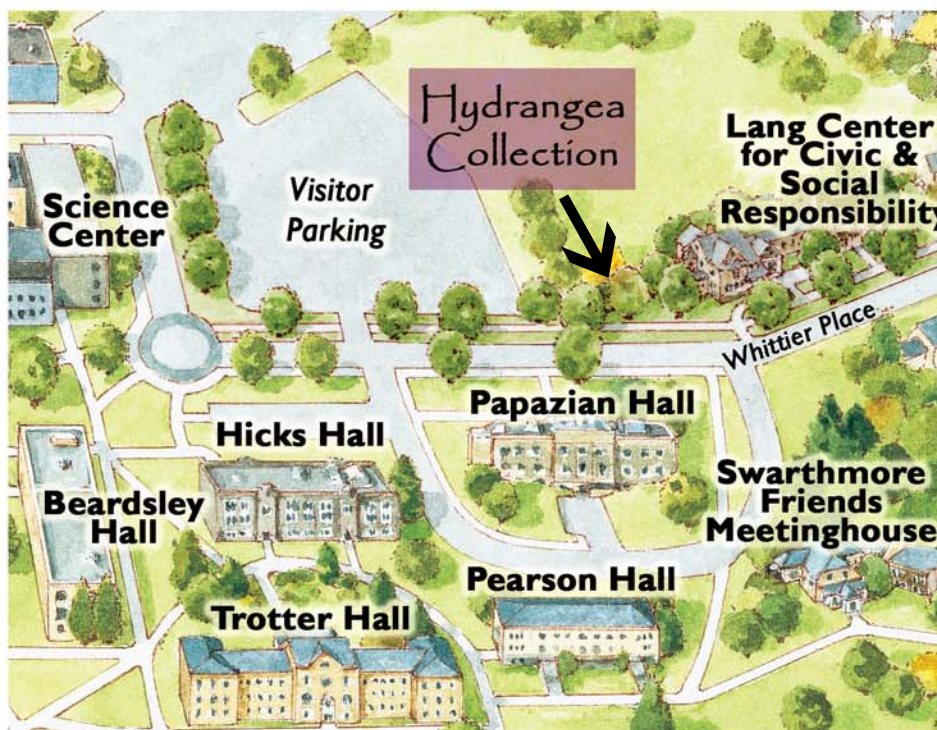
**'Miyama-Yae-Murasaki'** - Elegant double florets range from pink to blue; early blooming. Hydrangea Collection.

**'Shirofuji'** - Starry white, double sterile florets with contrasting fertile florets that range from white to pink or blue. West Garden.

**'Tokyo Delight'** - White, serrated sterile florets age to light rose; complemented by pink fertile florets. Hydrangea Collection.



*H. serrata* 'Tokyo Delight'



## About the Scott Arboretum

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens.

Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through a bequest from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today. There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, crabapples, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, conifers, vines and summer flowering shrubs, viburnums, and witchhazels.

Maps and specialized brochures on plants growing on the campus are available at the Arboretum office, which also houses a horticultural reference library. The Arboretum grounds are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free. The Arboretum is supported in part by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, a membership group. For additional information, call 610-328-8025, Monday to Friday, 8:30 - noon and 1:30 - 4:30.

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Cover photograph of *H. macrophylla* 'Penny Mac' by Rhoda Maurer

# Hydrangea Collection



Listen to an Audio Tour of the Hydrangea Collection by calling 610-717-5597 and pressing 4# from any cell phone. Or, download as a podcast from [www.scottarboretum.org](http://www.scottarboretum.org)



THE SCOTT ARBORETUM  
OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

## The Hydrangea Collection

The Arboretum's main Hydrangea Collection is located along Whittier Place, across from Papazian Hall. Other specimens are sprinkled throughout the gardens, as noted under the "Highlighted Species & Selections" descriptions.

## About Hydrangeas

Popular since the beginning of the 20th century, hydrangeas are one of the most diverse groups of plants, able to fill almost any garden niche. Though most are shrubs, vines are also a part of the family and some can be trained into small trees. This pest- and disease-resistant assembly of plants includes selections suitable for a range of light and moisture conditions.

## Botany of the Flowers

Hydrangea blooms are incredibly long lasting, extending the season of interest. Flower clusters take two basic shapes. One is a panicle, long and tapered. The second is a corymb, where flower stalks of differing lengths create lacecap (flat-topped) or hortensia (ball-shaped) blooms.

The individual florets feature two types of flowers—fertile and infertile. Tiny infertile flowers peak out from the center of the cluster, while the large infertile (sterile) flowers steal the show, attracting both people and pollinators. The "petals" are actually sepals, which protect the flower bud before it opens.



The Hydrangea Collection

## Flower Color

Hydrangea flower color ranges from white to pink, mauve, blue or purple. Some species can even change color from year to year due to changes in soil acidity. Alkaline soil (pH >7) produces pink flowers, and acidic soil (pH <7) produces blue flowers. You can obtain a soil test kit from your local extension agency or garden center.

## Cultural Information

Most hydrangeas will grow best in an area with dappled shade, but a few hydrangeas will flourish in sunny locations. In general, they grow best in fertile, well-drained, loamy soil. Using mulch that is rich in organic materials will help create the proper soil conditions in the garden.

Each spring, check all types of hydrangeas and remove dead wood and wood damaged by winter weather. *Hydrangea paniculata* and *Hydrangea arborescens* flower on current year's growth and should be pruned in late winter or early spring. All other species flower on the previous season's growth; prune immediately after the flowers have faded in late summer or early fall. Most hydrangeas form flowers from buds on the tips of their branches, so selective pruning is essential for good flower displays.

## Highlighted Species & Selections

### *Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris* (climbing hydrangea)

A climbing vine that attaches to supports with aerial roots. Aromatic, 6-10-inch summer blooms sport numerous creamy white fertile florets, irregularly ringed by showy white sterile flowers. Glossy round leaves provide a nice background for blooms that age to light green and then tan. Older stems feature exfoliating cinnamon brown bark. Grows 50-60 feet. *Isabelle Cosby Courtyard.*



*H. anomala*  
ssp. *quelpartensis*

**ssp. *quelpartensis*** - Smaller leaves and less vigorous than ssp. *petiolaris*; better for small areas. *Theresa Lang Garden of Fragrance.*

### *Hydrangea arborescens* (smooth hydrangea)

Large, hortensia-form blooms sport numerous dull white fertile flowers and fewer showy, papery white, sterile flowers. Aging flower heads turn apple green. Young stems are a smooth gray, aging beautifully into tawny, exfoliating bark. Coarse, dark green, oval foliage has toothed margins. An open shrub growing up to 6 feet tall in partial shade; native to the Eastern United States.

A slow colonizer, *H. arborescens* spreads through suckers; if a tighter form is desired, trim suckers yearly. This hydrangea is one of the few which can be cut back to the ground yearly to encourage formation of larger flowerheads.

**'Annabelle'** - Huge, rounded flowerheads; blooms mid-July. Papery-brown spent flowers and the exfoliating bark provide winter interest. *Metasequoia Allée.*

**'Hayes Starburst'** - Multi-sepaled florets translate to showy, starry blooms. Compact, mounded habit, growing 3-4 feet tall. *Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility.*

### *Hydrangea macrophylla* (bigleaf or French hydrangea)

Preferring part shade and moist soil, this hydrangea produces highly variable flowers—from lacecap to hortensia—which begin to appear in early July and last through August. The showy, sterile flowers can range from pink to purple or white to blue in color, with individual florets growing up to 2 inches in diameter. Coarse, toothed leaves can be as long as 8 inches. The rounded shrub ranges from 3 to 6 feet high. *Terry Shane Teaching Garden.*

**'All Summer Beauty'** - Hortensia type with bright pink to blue flowers and glossy, dark green foliage. Blooms summer-fall. *West Garden.*

**'Alpenglühén'** (syn. 'Alpenglow,' 'Glowing Embers') - Hortensia form; large flower heads with blooms emerging crimson and fading to purple-red. *Hydrangea Collection.*

## *Hydrangea macrophylla*, continued

**'Ayesha'** - Slightly convex white, pink or pale blue sepals; faintly scented; late-blooming. *Hydrangea Collection & Terry Shane Teaching Garden.*

**'Blue Wave'**- Lace-cap form; lilac to pale blue flowers. An unusually strong, hardy grower with lustrous dark green leaves. *Hydrangea Collection.*

**'Dooley'**- Hortensia form; pink to vivid blue blooms along the length of the stem. Very hardy. *West Garden.*

**Endless Summer™ ('Bailmer')** - Hortensia type; flowers on both old and new growth for a display that lasts from mid-summer to fall. *Terry Shane Teaching Garden.*

**'Jogasaki'**- Lace-cap form with double sterile flowers; their silvery hues of pink or blue intensify towards the center of each floret. *West Garden.*

**'Lady in Red'**- Lace-cap form; blooms fade to burgundy rose. Foliage has vivid red veins and stems, turning maroon in autumn. *West Garden.*

**'Nikko Blue'**- Hortensia type; flowers open with creamy centers and blue to pink margins, fading to a solid color. Reliable bloomer and a garden classic. *Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility.*

**'Otaska'**- Hortensia type; 3-foot-tall stems arch under the weight of its large white blooms. *Hydrangea Collection.*

**'Penny Mac'**- Hortensia form with pink or medium-blue blooms that fade into aquamarine hues; flowers on both old and new growth. *Hydrangea Collection.*

**'Preziosa'** - Hybrid between *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata*, with small hortensia-type blooms displaying a progression of colors, from white, to pinkish-rose, to red. Dark purple stems; grows 4 to 5 feet tall. *Hydrangea Collection.*



*H. 'Preziosa'*

## *Hydrangea paniculata* (panicle hydrangea)



*H. paniculata*  
'Limelight'

Late summer heralds long pyramidal, mainly white panicles that open in succession from bottom to top for a long-lasting effect. Arching gray branches bear olive green leaves, 3 to 6 inches long by 3-inch wide. Each leaf has finely toothed margins and small, bristly hairs. Native to Asia; multistemmed; up to 24 feet tall.

**'Limelight'** - Bright white flowers with lime-green hues. *Gold Medal Garden.*