**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 gift 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, 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. Join today and enjoy an array of fun and educational events year-round. For additional information, call 610-328-8025, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to noon and 1:30 to 4:30.


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**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. Bold, coarse foliage is a rich, deep green and resembles large oak leaves. 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; grows 8’ tall. This stoloniferous hydrangea spreads by underground shoots that send up small stems. These stems can be pruned out if not wanted.

- **‘Amethyst’** - Conical inflorescence emerges white, then transitions to a deep wine-red. Leaves have burgundy-red fall color. *Hydrangea Collection*
- **‘Pee Wee’** - Compact form growing 2’-3’ tall and wide. North side of Hicks Hall
- **‘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*

**Hydrangea serrata** (serrated or mountain hydrangea)

The flat-topped corymb is 2’-4’ across, with pink or blue fertile flowers. Sterile flowers are pink, blue, or white; sepal margins are slightly serrated. 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.

- **‘Miyama yae murasaki’** - Elegant double florets range from pink to blue; early blooming. *Hydrangea Collection*
- **‘Tokyo Delight’** - White, serrated sterile florets age to light rose; complemented by pink fertile florets. *Hydrangea Collection*
The Hydrangea Collection

The Arboretum’s main Hydrangea Collection is located along Whittier Place, across from Papazian Hall. Other specimens are dotted throughout the gardens, as noted under the descriptions.

About Hydrangeas

Popular since the beginning of the 20th century, hydrangeas are a diverse group 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 their 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 a flat-topped or hortensia (ball-shaped) bloom. The individual florets feature two types of flowers—fertile and infertile. Tiny fertile 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.

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 dappled shade, but a few hydrangeas will flourish in sunny locations. In general, they all 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.

This symbol indicates a plant that has received the Gold Medal Plant Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which recognizes trees, shrubs, and woody vines of outstanding merit based on disease and pest resistance, ease of growing and beauty in many seasons.

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’. Isabella Cosby Courtyard

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 duff white fertile flowers and fewer showy, papery white, sterile flowers. Aging flower heads turn apple green. Coarse, dark green, oval foliage has toothed margins. An open shrub growing up to 6’ tall in partial shade; native to the Eastern United States. A slow colonizer, H. arborescens spreads through suckers. This hydrangea is one of the few which can be cut back to the ground yearly to encourage formation of larger flowerheads.

Incrediball®

Hydrangea macrophylla (bigleaf or French hydrangea)

Preferring part shade and moist soil, this hydrangea produces highly variable flowers—from lacecap to hortensia. The showy, sterile flowers can range from pink to purple or white to blue in color, with individual florets growing up to 2” in diameter. The rounded shrub ranges from 3’-6’ 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

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

‘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, hard grower with lustrous dark green leaves. Hydrangea Collection

Endless Summer® ‘Bailmer’ - Hortensia type; flowers on both old and new growth for a display that lasts from mid-summer to fall. Whittier Place

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

‘Nigra’ - New stems emerge near-black in color and remains throughout the season. Bloom color is highly dependent on soil pH. Terry Shane Teaching 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

‘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’-6’ tall. Hydrangea Collection

Hydrangea paniculata

(late summer herals 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. Native to Asia; multi-stemmed; up to 24’ tall.

‘Limelight’ - Bright white flowers with lime-green hues. Gold Medal Garden

‘Penny Mac’ - 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

‘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’-6’ tall. Hydrangea Collection

Hydrangea quelpartensis

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Hydrangea Collection & Terry Shane Teaching Garden

Hydrangea Collection

Hydrangea Collection