



Hydrangeas

A large and versatile family of plants, including shrubby and climbing types. Many tolerate a wide range of soils and shade. We offer the following forms:

Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

Available in our climbing section. Shade tolerant climber with lacy heads of creamy white florets in Summer, golden russet Autumn leaf colour and shiny brown peeling bark on younger stems. Suitable for North or East walls, as well as sunny sites. Eventually reaches 7m (23ft) or more but is slow growing in early years. Tolerant of dry conditions once established.

Hydrangea Paniculata and Arborescens types

Tall woody forms with stunning cream rounded panicles of scented florets, opening from pink tinged buds in mid-late Summer. Yellow-russet Autumn colour. Fast growing. Prefer light shade, but will grow in sun. Prune Paniculata hard back each Spring to within 2 buds of previous years wood. Thin weak shoots of Arborescens and allow old flower heads to drop off naturally in Spring. Both suit most good garden soils. Average height 3.5m (11ft).

Species and Woodland Hydrangeas (*Quercifolia*, *Villosa*, *Sargentiana*)

Shade loving 'Lace Cap' types, with flat heads of tiny white florets, sometimes tinged mauve or pink in bud. These types do best in sheltered shady positions in rich, moist soil. With exception of tougher varieties, such as *Quercifolia*, most dislike sun and wind, which can scorch leaves and flowers. *Villosa* is best pruned in early Spring by removing a third of old wood; other types can be left un-pruned. They are ideal for problem shady corners. Average height 3m (10ft).

Mophead Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla* or *hortensis* types)

Produces a wealth of round headed blooms in mid-Summer through until Autumn. The Mophead

Hydrangea comes in shades of red-pink, pink or white. If grown in acid soil, some varieties will change from pink to shades of blue and mauve (white ones remain the same). If you do not have a naturally acid soil you can create this blue effect by growing a Hydrangea of a suitable variety for bluing in a tub of Ericaceous compost and treating regularly as recommended with a solution of special Hydrangea colorant (available in our chemical section). Although performing best on a rich, moist soil in semi-shade, this type of hydrangea will tolerate a range of garden soils and aspects, including really poor areas in sun. They are also salt tolerant and ideal for coastal planting. Most varieties of this type will reach around 3m (10ft).

'Lace Cap' Hydrangeas differ from the 'Mophead' type in that they produce flat, lacy flower heads, as opposed to large, rounded ones. The individual florets tend to come out one by one over a period of some weeks. Apart from the climbing and species types, which have flowers of this type, there are also a number of attractive macrophylla types such as 'White Wave' and 'Blue Wave' (suitable for bluing) and the variegated Hydrangeas like 'Tricolour' (pink on alkaline soil, white on acid soils). 'Lace Cap' types are more fussy than the 'Mopheads' and need a semi-shaded position protected from strong wind in a good soil, which does not become too dry. Prune in Spring by lightly thinning, removing a few older or weaker shoots. Do not cut back hard. Eventual size 1.8m by 3m (6ft by 10ft).

Hydrangeas sold as indoor houseplants

Indoor pot Hydrangeas are the same varieties as those normally grown outside, but will flower earlier in the indoor warmth. They can be planted out in the garden after flowering. Plants producing blue flowers when purchased will turn pink when transplanted into most local soils, unless treated (see above).



PODINGTON
GARDEN CENTRE

High Street, Podington, Wellingborough, Northants, NN29 7HS

Telephone: 01933 353656

Email: reception@podington.co.uk Web-site: www.podington.co.uk