



## PRUNING HYDRANGEAS

Type	When to Prune	Comments
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris--Climbing Hydrangea	After flowering	Minimal pruning required. Overlong shoots can be cut back to a healthy bud. Retain as much upper growth as possible, as most flowers are produced at top. Old plants can be cut back hard in early spring, leaving only the framework branches, but this may reduce flowering, so it is better to spread this out over several years.
Hydrangea arborescens— Smooth Hydrangea (‘Annabelle’, ‘Grandiflora’)	Early spring, before active growth begins	Minimal pruning required, but can be cut back as low as 10 in.
Hydrangea macrophylla-- Bigleaf Hydrangea (‘All Summer Beauty’, ‘Nikko Blue’, ‘Variegated’, ‘Endless Summer’)	After flowering	Minimal pruning required. Cut back weak, thin shoots and one or two of the oldest stems to the base of the plant. Branches that have flowered can be cut back to 12 in., to a strong bud. If plants are badly cold-damaged, they can be cut to the base in spring, but there will be no flowers that year. ‘Endless Summer’ is an exception, as it blooms on both old and new wood and may still produce flowers following drastic pruning.
Hydrangea paniculata-- Panicle Hydrangea (‘Grandiflora’, ‘Pink Diamond’, ‘Tardiva’, ‘Unique’)	Early spring, before active growth begins	Pruning not required. Cutting back from 10" to 2' will result in fewer but much bigger flower clusters. In subsequent years, cut back to the lowest pair of buds above this framework.
Hydrangea quercifolia-- Oak Leaf Hydrangea (‘Alice’, ‘Sikes Dwarf’, ‘Pee Wee’, ‘Snow Queen’)	After flowering	Minimal pruning required
Hydrangea serrata— Tea of Heaven (‘Blue Billow’, ‘Blue Lace’, Bluebird’, ‘Kiyosumi’)	After flowering	Minimal pruning required. Cut back weak, thin shoots and one or two of the oldest stems to the base of the plant. Branches that have flowered can be cut back to 12 in., to a strong bud. If plants are badly cold-damaged, they can be cut to the base in spring, but there will be no flowers that year.