Cornell Cooperative Extension
Ontario County

THE INSIDE DIRT

For Fingerlakes Gardeners

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Inside this Issue

The Inside Dirt
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Upcoming Events

Meet Your Farmer Fair
May 4, 2025
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Celebrating Locally Grown Agricultural Products! Get to Know Your Local Farmers!
Join Cornell Cooperative Extension Ontario County at New York Kitchen for our spring Meet Your Local Farmer Fair! This fun and educational community event will provide an opportunity to meet your local producers and learn more about their agricultural product offerings.

- Shop a variety of local produce, meats, eggs, cut flowers, plants, & more!
- Experience live chef cooking demonstrations on the hour!
- There is no fee to attend, and all are welcome! Donations of $5 or more towards our educational programming will receive a complimentary raffle entry to win a delicious gift package!

For more information contact Jacob at jlm563@cornell.edu

Ontario County Master Gardener Plant Sale
May 10, 2025, 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Cornell Cooperative Extension
480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY
Rain or shine! The sale will feature perennial and annual flowers and some vegetable plants for you to add to your gardens. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and to assist you in plant selection. Bring boxes to carry home purchases. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the educational outreach of the Homes and Grounds programming that the Master Gardener volunteers perform for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. For more information: 585.394.3977 x 436 or x 427.

Container Herb Garden Workshop
May 21, 2025
6:30 pm-8:00 pm
Cornell Cooperative Extension
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Master Gardeners, Erika Pfeiffer, Michelle Bartell and Sue Craugh, will guide you through the world of gardening with herbs as they discuss the advantages of growing your own for culinary and other uses. They will be giving a short presentation on what and how to grow both annual and perennial herbs, their beneficial uses in the garden and in the kitchen. From warding off insects to creating the flavors of high dining meals and desserts, herbs are a fantastic addition to any flower or vegetable garden. They will cover when and how to harvest your herbs for top quality. Participants will be creating their own potted herb garden of rosemary, thyme and oregano to take home. The Master Gardeners will also provide recipes for using herbs and other resources for you to take home.
Fee: $15/person. The class is limited to the first 20 registrants.
To register contact Nancy at 585-394-3977 x 427 or email nea8@cornell.edu with your name, address, and phone number.

Starting Plants Indoors

Steve Reiners, Professor, Horticulture, SIPS, Cornell University, Cornell University, Cornelll AgriTech

A big mistake gardeners make is starting their transplants too early. The table below provides guidance on when you should start them. It assumes a last frost date of May 20th. If your last frost date is earlier or later, add to or subtract from the optimum planting dates to compensate for the difference.

Image: Flickr

Table 1. When to start vegetables indoors and optimum temperatures for growth.

Vegetable	Outside Transplanting Date	Transplants, Indoor Planting date	Weeks Needed	Optimum Daytime Temperature (°F)
Broccoli – spring	4/15 to 5/15	3/5 to 4/5	6-7	65-70
Broccoli - fall	7/20 to 8/15	6/15 to 7/10	5-6	65-70
Brussels sprouts	6/10 to 7/1	5/1 to 5/20	6-7	65-70
Cabbage	5/1 to 7/10	3/25 to 6/1	5-6	65-70
Cauliflower- fall	7/1 to 7/20	5/20 to 6/10	5-6	65-70
Cucumber	5/25 to 7/15	5/5 to 6/25	3	70-75
Eggplant	6/1 to 6/15	4/10 to 4/25	7-8	70-75
Lettuce - spring	4/10 to 5/15	3/5 to 4/10	5-6	65-70
Lettuce - fall	8/1 to 8/30	6/25 to 7/25	5-6	65-70
Muskmelon	6/1 to 6/15	5/10 to 5/25	3	70-75
Onions - bulb	4/15 to 6/1	2/15 to 4/1	8-9	65-70
Peppers	6/1 to 6/20	4/10 to 4/30	7-8	70-75
Squash, summer	5/25 to 7/15	5/5 to 6/25	3	70-75
Squash, winter	5/25 to 6/20	5/5 to 6/1	3	70-75
Tomato	5/25 to 6/20	4/10 to 5/5	6-7	70-75
Watermelon*	6/1 to 6/15	5/10 to 5/25	3	70-75

*If seedless, will require heat mats and 85°F to germinate

Soils – Use a synthetic seed starting mix containing peat moss or coconut coir, perlite, vermiculite and usually a little fertilizer. Don't use your garden soil or compost as it may contain plant diseases like damping off, which will kill your seedlings.

Containers – Lots of choices. You can buy plastic flats/plugs that vary in size that can be reused after cleaning. Or you can use egg cartons, cups, or 'peat pots'. If making your own, make sure it has drainage holes.

Labels – Small plants look alike. And even larger plants like cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage are hard to tell apart. Label everything using a permanent marker.

Start warm – Vegetable seeds don't need light to germinate. Place flats/containers in the warmest part of your house, even if it is a dark closet. Most seeds prefer 75°F to sprout. Check twice daily and move under lights as soon as the plants break the surface. Lower temperatures are better for growth (see table above).

Lights – A sunny windowsill will not provide enough light. Use fluorescent or LED lights and place 2-3 inches above plants. Put the lights on a timer and aim for 14 to 16 hours of light.

Water – When the soil starts to dry, water lightly until you see water start to run out the bottom. How often depends on the humidity, air temperature and soil texture.

Fans– Use a small fan to lightly blow the plants. It helps dry the soil, reduces humidity and creates a stockier plant by thickening stems. Use a timer and have it on every two hours for 10 minutes.

Fertilize – Most mixes have some fertilizer to start, and the seed provides nutrition for the first 7 to 10 days. Use a half strength soluble fertilizer once a week once plants have two true leaves.

Hardening – Get the plants acclimated to outdoor conditions. Stop fertilizing two weeks before planting, move them outside for a few hours per day and let the soil dry out a bit more between waterings.

"Less-Is-More" Lawncare

Did you know that less-is-more when it comes to lawncare? If a beautiful, healthy lawn with less mowing and less lugging sounds good to you, read on.

Mow Higher. Mow Less

Turns out grass knows how to grow, but we could use some tips on how to mow and fertilize it a little better. Lawn research has shown that grass grows better when we mow it higher and when we mow off only 1/3rd of the grass blade height at a time.

To give an example, imagine you go away on a May vacation for a week and don't get to mow your lawn until the following weekend. It's been growing for two weeks during a month where grass growth is usually very fast. You grab your trusty mower, set it to a 2-inch mowing height, and leave behind a swath of heavy grass clippings and a scalped lawn. After you rake up the wet lumps of heavy clippings, you might notice that you are looking at yellow growth that was previously protected from the sun by the grass blades you just mowed off. Not a pretty sight. But what you can't see is worse, cutting off more then 1/3rd of the grass blade stunts root growth. Uh oh.

Now imagine your trusty mower is set as high as it can go-with the blade about 3.5 inches from the ground. This should ideally allow you to cut off just 1/3rd of the grass height, like a trim rather than a crew cut. You might have to come back to it in a week, but the grass would thank you by continuing to grow heathy blades and thick roots.

Why do we aim to cut the grass no shorter than 3.5 inches, or as high as the blades can go? Taller grass grows deeper roots. Deep roots make the lawn more resilient during drought, and taller grass muscles out competing weeds. So set your mower to its highest setting. Mowing higher also reduces the frequency of mowing by 20-25% and that saves time, fuel, and wear and tear on equipment.

Does mowing less often sound good to you? Plan your mowing around grass growth rather than on the calendar.

When grass is growing fast you may have to mow weekly. But as the season gets hotter or rains less frequently, you can mow less often. Stick to the 1/3rd mowing rule and wait until the grass grows high enough to mow. In the hot months of summer that period can be several weeks between mowing. If you are worried about your lawn having occasional tall stems or weeds, try string trimming around the edges to keep things looking neat between those longer mowing intervals.

Fertilize Less

A dense lawn with deep roots filters pollutants from runoff and helps to recharge our groundwater. New lawns will need additional nutrition in the form of fertilizer to grow dense and deep. But established lawns—those over 10 years old—need less fertilizer, and even less if you are using a mulch mower to return grass clippings back to the lawn. These clippings are just what the lawn needs, a perfectly tailored fertilizer. If you have an old lawn, and you are mulch mowing you may need little to no fertilizer to grow a dense healthy lawn.

A thick canopy of grass blades and a deep root system have been shown to catch and hold airborne and waterborne pollutants, to filter and slow stormwater run-off, and to aid in groundwater recharge. Thin lawns and bare soil, on the other hand, can contribute to nutrient run-off. Similarly, shady lawns that are patchy and thin might be better off replaced as landscape beds with shade-adapted native plant groundcovers.

Turf Take Aways

Out in the sun, where the grass grows well, aim for less frequent mowing based on grass growth rather than the calendar. Mowing higher—no lower than 3.5 inches—can help to increase that mowing interval and encourages deep resilient roots that'll see your lawn through the drought. By providing only the fertilizer your lawn needs you'll grow a thick healthy lawn that protects water quality. And best of all, you're getting more by doing less.

For more information on choosing what's right for your lawn, visit your local Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Cornell Turf Team's Lawn pages. *Source: Cornell Garden Based Learning.*

Growing Jerusalem Artichokes

Introduction

The Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus L.*), also known as sunchoke or sunroot, is an herbaceous perennial in the sunflower family. Jerusalem artichokes are produced throughout the United States primarily for their edible swollen tubers (swollen underground stems) (Figure 1). These tubers look like a cross between white potatoes and ginger root. However, they are not well adapted to the hot climates found in the southeast. While most areas of North Carolina are suitable for growing Jerusalem artichoke, yields may be diminished compared to cooler growing regions. Much of the commercial production of Jerusalem artichokes occurs in the northeastern and northcentral United States. In the warmer climates of the southern United States, the occurrence of soilbourne diseases largely prevent commercial production.

Figure 1. Example of variety Stampede Jerusalem artichoke. Photo Courtesy of Johnny's Selected Seed Attribution: https://www.johnnyseeds.com/

Freshly harvested Jerusalem artichokes are comparable to water chestnuts and can be used in salads. Tubers can be cooked like potatoes. Jerusalem artichokes can also be used for pickling, animal feed, fructose production, and alcohol production. Unlike most root vegetables, the principal carbohydrate in Jerusalem artichokes at harvest is inulin rather than starch. After consumption, the inulin is converted in the digestive tract to fructose, which can be more easily tolerated by diabetics than glucose. There are other health advantages attributed to inulin that is in Jerusalem artichokes. For example, it lowers blood cholesterol level; reduces blood sugar level, low density lipoproteins, and triglycerides; and can benefit heart health.

Jerusalem artichokes should not be confused with the Globe artichoke (*Cynara scolymus*), which is not adapted to North Carolina conditions. In globe artichokes, the edible portion is the globular flower.

Varieties

Jerusalem artichokes are available commercially under several trade names. Many of the existing variety stocks are believed to be duplications or variant forms of the same strain, with slight differences appearing due to soil or culture. Several varieties or selections are listed and available from seed companies.

Interested growers should plant local stock which is known to be adapted to the area and produce acceptable yields. Since limited information is available about how well the varieties grow under North Carolina growing conditions, only small plantings should be considered to determine the most adapted variety before making large plantings. If local plant stock cannot be found, the following table lists some possible seed sources.

Soils

This crop is adapted to various soil types and cultural conditions, but slightly alkaline soils are preferred (7 to 7.5). Generally, soils suitable for potato (Solanum tuberosum) and corn (Zea mays) production are suitable for Jerusalem artichoke production. Heavy clay soils, especially those prone to waterlogging, may reduce yields.

Fertilizer

Generally, it is suggested that 500 to 700 lb per acre of 6-12-6 (30 lb N, 60 lb P_2O_5, 30 lb K_2O) be broadcast in the row. This rate may be increased on soils low in natural fertility. Fertility programs similar to that of potatoes should be considered as a starting point for growing Jerusalem artichokes.

Variety	Description	Company & Website	Phone
Stampede	Early yielding (90 days); white	Johnny's Selected Seeds | Supporting Farms & Gardens Since 1973	877-564-6697
Jerusalem	Hybrid variety, 96 to 120 inches tall	Vegetable Seed, Flower Seed, and Garden Supplies | Jung Seed	800-247-5864
Red Fuseau	Mid-sized tubers with dark red skin	Seed Savers Exchange	563-382-5990
White Fuseau	Tall, white tubers, easy to peel	Norton Naturals - Native & perennial vegetables	N/A
Clearwater	Tall plants, potato, potato-like tubers	OIKOS Tree Crops	269-624-6233
No Name Listed	White	Gurney's, Yankton, SD	513-354-1491

*Some varieties may appear under the commercial name Sunchoke or Sunroot.

Planting

Planting should be early in the spring (February – April) when the soil can be satisfactorily worked. Later planting results in reduced yields. Like white potatoes, whole tubers or pieces of tubers that are no less than two ounces and have two or three prominent buds should be planted. Pieces around 2 oz in size should be used. Smaller pieces are more likely to dehydrate and may result in lower yields. Do not allow cut seed pieces to dry before planting. Plant 2 to 4 inches deep, in rows 30 to 42 inches wide with 15 to 24 inches between plants. To prevent the artichokes from spreading and becoming a potential weed problem, plant the artichoke tubers in contained beds.

Cultural Management

Cultivate shallowly and only as needed to control grass and weeds as the planting is being established. During plant establishment, grass and weed problems will be reduced by shading since plants grow over 6 feet high. Tubers begin to form in August and may become 4 inches long and 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

Harvesting

The crop should not be harvested until after frost (October – December). Tubers dug later in the season are sweeter but have less inulin. Tops should be cut with a mower. Plow open the furrow, pick up the tubers, place in field containers, and remove from the field. Hand rakes can be used to great advantage in locating the tubers. Conventional potato harvesters, with modifications to account for the smaller size of Jerusalem artichokes, can be used to mechanically harvest the tubers.

Handling and Storage

The skin of Jerusalem artichokes is very thin. Care should be taken in handling to avoid skinning, cuts and bruises. The skin is also susceptible to rapid moisture loss so the crop should be put in storage immediately after harvest. Cold storage facilities should have high humidity (85 to 95% relative humidity) and a temperature of 32°F. Under these conditions, tubers can be kept for several months. It is important to maintain a high relative humidity to reduce tubers from shriveling due to water loss and to also reduce decay. If the tubers are to be washed, fresh water sanitized with bleach should be used.

Yields

There is considerable variation in yields but generally North Carolina growers may expect from 5 to 7 tons per acre.

Pests

Very little information is known about diseases and insects on Jerusalem artichoke. However, pests like slugs and swift moths may become problematic as they can eat holes in the tubers. Controlling moisture and weeding frequently can help prevent pest damage. Sclerotina rot, which appears as a white fluffy fungus producing black spores in stored roots, can be avoided by discarding diseased or damaged roots when observed in the field. Very few pesticides are labeled on this crop.

Precaution

Jerusalem artichokes are a very hardy perennial and can become a potential weed problem (Figure 2). Since it is difficult to harvest all the tubers in a field or garden, there will be volunteer plants the following spring. It is important to remove these before they can set tubers in August

Figure 2. Example of Jerusalem artichokes growing uncontrollably in Slovakia. Photo courtesy of University of British Columbia. Attribution: https://news.ubc.ca/2018/05/07/genetics-help-make-a-weed-a-week/

Summary

- Grow strains known to be high yielding and have good color.
- Use only healthy seed pieces.
- Plant early in spring as soon as the soil can be worked properly.
- Plant in 30 to 42 inch rows and 15 to 24 inches between plants.
- Cover seed 3 to 5 inches deep.
- Harvest tubers in the late fall, generally after the first frost.
- Store tubers at high humidity and a temperature near 32°F

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Flowers For Attracting Beneficial Insects To Your Garden

There are hundreds of beneficial insects available in nature that can help control insect pests in the home vegetable and flower garden. Many beneficial insects are **predators,** such as Lady beetles, Lacewings, Ground Beetles, Soldier Beetles, Assassin Bugs, Big-eyed Bugs, Hover Flies, Robber Flies, Dragon Flies, Spiders, and many more. Predators hunt and eat other insects, and most of them are non-specific; that is, they eat many kinds of insects. Some insects are predators in both the adult and larval stages, like the Lady beetle, and others only during one of its stages. Other beneficials are **parasitoids**, insects which they lay their eggs in or on some stage of another insect (the "host") and their young devour or digest the host insect. There are many kinds of parasitoid wasps and flies, from extremely tiny ones (such as Trichogramma wasps) to the very large (i.e. Ichneumonid wasps, which can be 1 1/2 to 2 inches long.) Tachinid flies-large, bristley, sometimes with red or tan colored bodies-are also common parasitoids.

To attract beneficial insects to your home garden, you must provide water, food, and protection. **Water** can be in small dishes on the ground and at waist height, such as birdbaths, - but it should be shallow and include pebbles for the insects to emerge. **Shelter** is provided by groundcovers, low-growing plants, and permanent plantings such as perennials or shrubs that provide over-wintering locations. **Food** is in two forms; pest insects-which arrive naturally and which you do *not* eradicate by spraying-and nectar and pollen provided by flowering plants.

Nectar and Pollen-Producing Plants:
To maintain a large and diverse population of beneficial insects around your garden, you should provide nectar and pollen during the longest possible growing season. Try to choose a series of flowers that will bloom continuously from spring through fall, from several plant families. The plant families that have been proven to attract and feed the largest numbers of beneficial insects are the Daisy family (**Compositae**) and the Parsley family (**Umbelliferae**), but there are many useful plants from other families such as Dipsaceae and Cruciferae as well. If the home gardener chooses a variety of flowering plants, and does not spray the garden with pesticides, there will certainly be many beneficial insects attracted.

The following list represents some recommended plants for this purpose. Those marked with an Asterisk (*) have shown significant insect counts in scientific studies available at this time, but other members of the same plant family are very likely to be helpful.

ANNUALS
(Compositae):
Arctotis stoechadifolia (African Daisy)
Brachycome * iberdifolia (Swan River Daisy)
Calendula* officinalis (Pot marigold)
Convolvulus minor* (Morning Glory)
Coreopsis calliopsis (Tickseed)
Cosmos pinnatus (White Sensation* especially)
Felicia amelloides (Blue Marguerite)
Gaillardia pulchella*
Gazania linearis
Gerbera jamesonii (Transvaal Daisy)
Helinathus annuus* (Sunflower)
Nemophila menziesii (Baby Blue-eyes)
Tagetes erecta, T. Patula (Marigolds)*especially 'Lemon Gem'
Tithonia rotundifolia (Mexican Sunflower)
Zinnias elegans* (Zinnas)
Others: Alyssum (Lobularia maritima; Cruciferae), Nasturtiums for ground cover

PERENNIALS (Note: Those listed are Compositae unless otherwise indicated)
Achillea* millifolium (Yarrow) A. Ptarmica (Sneezewort)
A. taygetea
Anthemis tinctoria 'Kelwayi* (Hardy Marguerite)
Asters (A. Novae-angliae, Michaelmas Daisy),
New England Asters, others
Cheiranthus cheiri* (Wallflower) also sold as Erysimum
Chrysanthemum coccineum* (Painted Daisy)
Chrysopsis (Golden Asters)
Echinacea (Purple coneflower)
Eryngium (E. Maritimum, Sea Holly; others; Umbelliferae)
Iberis umbellata* (Candytuft; Cruciferae)
Lavendar* (Lavandula; Labiatae)
Liatris pycnostrachya* (Blazing star, gay feather)
Linaria* (Toadflax, Scrophulariaceae)
Monarda* spp. (Bee balm; Labiatae)
Rudbeckia fulgida (Coneflower; R. Hirta, Black-eyed Susan)
Scabiosa* (Pincushion flower; Dipsaceae)
Solidago* (Goldenrod)

HERBS:
(Note: many herbs are Umbelliferae, with flat flower clusters that make nectar or pollen available to many small beneficial wasps and flies). The following all have shown beneficial insects populations attracted.
Angelica, Anise, Borage (for Bees especially), Caraway, Chamomile, Chervil, Dill, Fennel, Lovage, Rue, and Tansy.

Source: Sally Jean Cunningham, Extension Educator, Erie County.

Daylily Cultivation

Beginnings: Modern daylilies have evolved after years of thoughtful hybridizing by many different growers beginning with species plants collected from China and Japan. The common "roadside" daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva)* and the Lemon Daylily (*Hemerocallis flava)* are two known species reportedly brought to North America by early settlers emigrating from Europe. Many of today's daylilies come in a variety of shapes and sizes with clearer colors in nearly every color except pure white and pure blue.

The daylily is not a true lily even though it is a member of the Lily family. Hemerocallis is a botanical name derived from two Greek words that represent "beauty" and "day" or beauty for a day. Most daylily blooms last just for one day, opening in early morning and remaining open throughout the afternoon into early evening. There are exceptions. Usually several flower buds form on each plant in various stages allowing for a succession of bloom for periods from a few to several weeks.

In upstate New York, blooming can begin as early as mid-June for extra early varieties with a main season peak bloom occurring in mid-July. Late varieties extend the bloom period from early August with a few lasting into frost. In the south, many daylilies have what is called a rebloom cycle where the plant sends up new scapes after resting for a short period. In the north this is not as common. Rebloom scapes may appear but most without sufficient time to bloom before frost. Experience will determine which scapes have a chance to rebloom and which ones should be cut close to the crown to save the plant's energies.

Where to Plant: Daylilies prefer full sun but will tolerate some shade. If full sun is not available, it is best to place them so that they will receive at least six hours of full sun each day. The lighter colors, light yellows and pinks, need more sun to bring out their colorings. Purples and reds may benefit from afternoon shade on hot summer days. Daylilies should not be planted near large trees where root competition for available nutrients may hinder their development.

Soil should be relatively well drained to eliminate standing water. This is especially true in early spring as winter's snow thaws. Although daylilies can tolerate much water, and need copious amounts to perform well, their crowns should be kept above standing water levels. Planting in a slight mound or in raised beds will help eliminate this problem.

Daylilies planted close to warm foundations and those with protected southern exposures should be well mulched in early winter. This will help protect them from starting too early and becoming susceptible to severe frost damage.

When to Plant: Daylilies should be planted in their permanent location after the last date for spring frost. They do not like to be set back. If new plants arrive early and are planted in the garden they should be protected from late spring frost. If it is not possible to get them in the ground within a day or two of arrival, plants can be held in damp sand or moist potting medium.

Spring planting is preferable as it gives the new plant time to develop a strong root system to carry it through the winter. If it is necessary to plant in fall, put it in the ground at least six weeks before killing frost. Then, after a killing frost, mulch it well. Fall planting of southern grown plants is risky in northern climates.

Avoid, if possible planting in July through early August. High temperature produces stress while high humidity and high temperature can cause conditions for disease. If necessary to plant during summer's peak, a simple protective shading device can be made by pushing four stakes in the ground around the plant and placing a brown paper grocery bag upside down over the stakes. Leave an ample air space at the bottom of the bag for circulation.

The Greener the Thumb-Planting: Newly arrived bare root plants can be soaked in a dilute (1/4) solution of liquid fertilizer. This should be for a few hours but can be over night if need be. Shipping tends to dehydrate the plants. Remove any dead roots. The foliage should be cut back to about 6 inches above the crown to reduce the transpiration loss. Extra long roots can also be cut back to about six or eight inches from the crown without hurting the plant. It is better to trim long roots then to try to curl them around the planting hole.

Work the soil to a depth of at least one foot. Compost or other soil building amendments can be added. The soil should be loose allowing for good aeration, water percolation, and rootlet formation. The planting hole should be wider than the root spread so the roots will not be crammed into the hole.

Mound the soil in the hole so that the crown will be just below the top surface of the mound and slightly above the surrounding surfaces. This will keep the crown out of standing water. Remember that the soil in the hole will settle some so make the mound a little higher to compensate for settling. Cover the roots and compress lightly to remove any air pockets. Water liberally to settle the plant in. After the water has receded, finish filling in the hole. Remember to label the plant.

Clay soils and compacted soils will limit the root spread of the plant. This results in the cramping of new crown development which will decrease overall plant performance. Amending

these soils with good compost or leaf mold will allow the roots and crown development to spread out more. The plant will increase faster and be much easier to divide and will not need to be divided as often.

Space daylilies at least 18 to 24 inches apart. This allows ample room for growth without crowding. It may look sparse but in a year or two the reason for this spacing will become apparent. Try to leave a daylily undisturbed for at least three years.

Winter Protection: We like to leave the frost killed foliage in place. It gives a small amount of protection to the crowns. In addition, winter mulch plants with a light covering of wheat straw, pine needles or similar mulch. The mulch helps to reduce the freeze-thaw-freeze cycle damage and frost heaving. In early spring, the more hardy plants will begin to grow right up through the light mulch while the less hardy plants still receive some protection from spring frost. As spring approaches, the mulch can be pulled back from the more tender plants on warm days and pushed back over the plants during freezing nights.

Some people recommend removing the die back foliage in fall. They believe it removes a wintering over hiding place for harmful pests. If a given garden is known to have such pests, then this practice may be worth considering. It does give the winter garden a neater appearance.

Dividing: A daylily clump may not need to be divided before 3 to 5 years at the earliest. Decreased bloom is one indicator for dividing although there may be climatic conditions that also can influence the plant's performance. A freshly dug daylily should have its foliage cut back to about six to eight inches above the crown. The general practice is to cut it in the shape of an inverted "V". The roots should be thoroughly washed clean with a garden hose. This allows better inspection and easier separation of the crowns.

The divisions can be single, double, or multiple fans depending upon the whims of the gardener or how the original clump best comes apart. Compacted crowns are difficult to divide. They are best cut apart with a sharp knife. Large compacted crowns can be forced apart with the point of a well placed shovel and heavy foot. Each fan should have its own collection of roots. Double fan divisions will clump up much faster than single fan divisions.
Some gardeners air dry the cut crowns before planting. Others sprinkle fungicides or a rooting hormone compound on the cut surface. We have found little need for disease protection in our cool climate. But if divisions are made in hot humid weather some sort of disease protection may be advisable.

Watering: Daylilies thrive with ample watering. An inch of rainfall per week is considered the minimum. Without sufficient watering, bloom production will diminish. Water is needed most in spring and summer when growth is rapid and blooms are being produced.
As with most other plants, watering should be done so as to be sure it reaches clear through the root zone of at least eight to ten inches deep. Clay soils tend to retain water so they do not need to be watered as often as sandy soils. Clay soils should never be allowed to become completely dry. If overhead sprinklers are used, they are best applied during the late afternoon or evening so as not to damage open blooms.

Fertilizing Daylilies thrive in a wide range soil pH with approximately 6.5 being the optimum. It is best to have the local Master Gardeners check your soil pH for you at your Cooperative Extension office before making any attempt to adjust your soil's pH. If adjustments are needed, they can best advise you how to go about it.

Established plants will benefit from a spring application of a good fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 following the manufacturer's instructions as to rates printed on the package. Older and larger established clumps may require a little more fertilizer due to soil depletion. New plantings should not receive more than a very dilute (1/4 to 1/2) fertilizer until they are established. Foliar applied fertilizers are ideal for daylilies.

Gardeners should avoid high nitrogen fertilizer and late summer applications as they may lead to decreased bloom and lack of winter hardiness respectfully. Some commercial growers do use high nitrogen fertilizer in spring to force the plant to increase fan development. These growers are willing to sacrifice flowering and scape strength for vigorous foliage growth and fan development for future divisions.

Source: Tom Rood, American Hemerocallis Society Region 4 Publicity Director/Editor, Master Gardener-Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Chairman Finger Lakes Daylily Society. Acknowledgements: Leslie Hegeman, Past President, Long Island Daylily Society. Nassau County Cornell Cooperative Extension. "Daylilies-The Beginner's Handbook" 1991 Revised edition. American Hemerocallis Society.

Perennials

A plant whose above ground parts die down during winter, while the crown and underground structures persist and emerge the following season. To be considered a perennial, a plant should maintain this characteristic for a minimum of three years.

Perennials for Special Purposes

Perennials for shade

Astilbe spp.	False spirea
Bergenia cordifolia	Leather leaf
Brunnera macrophylla	Siberian Bugloss
Dicentra spp.	Bleeding heart
Doronicum caucasica	Leopards bone
Geranium spp.	Cranesbill
Hemerocallis spp.	Daylily
Heuchera sanguinea	Coral Bell
Hosta	Funkia
Iris sibirica	Siberian iris
Primula spp.	Primrose
Pulmonaria	Lungwort
Phlox divaricata	Woodland phlox
Trollius spp.	Globe flower

Perennials which are drought tolerant

Achillea	Yarrow
Anthemis tinctoria	Golden Marguerite
Artemisia spp.	Wormwood
Coriopsis	Tickseed
Cheiranthus allionii	Wallflower
Dianthus spp.	Pinks
Euphorbia spp.	Spurge
Eryngium spp.	Sea holly
Gailardia	Blanket flower
Helianthemum	Sun Rose
Kniphofia uvasia	Red hot poker
Lavendula angustifolia	Lavender
Penstemon spp.	Penstemon
Salvia spp.	Salvia
Sedum spp.	Stone crop
Veronica spp.	Speedwell
Yucca filamentosa	Adams Needle

Perennials for ground cover

Alchemilla mollis	Ladies mantle
Asarum europaeum	European ginger
Asperula odorata	Sweet woodruff
Aegopodium variagatum	Bishops weed
Ajuga reptans	Bugleweed
Antennaria dioica	Pussy toes
Armeria martitima	Sea thrift
Convallaria majalis	Lily of the Valley
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer
Calluna vulgaris	Heather
Chrysogonum virginianum	Golden Star
Cyclamen neopolitanum -	- -
Dicentra spp.	Fringed bleeding heart
Epimedium spp.	Bishops hat
Erica carnea	Heath
Genista Pilosa	Broom
Houttuynia cordata	- - -
Iberis sempervirens	Candy tuft
Iris cristata	Crested iris
Lamium maculatum	Dead nettle
Liriope spicata	Lily turf
Phlox subulata	Moss pink
Pulmonaria saccharata	Lungwort
Pachysandra terminalis	- - -
Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender cotton
Stachys byzantina	Lambs ears
Thymus serpyllum	- - -
Trillium grandiflorum	- - -
Tiarella cordifolia	Foam flower

Perennials with long bloom period

Achillea spp.	Yarrow
Anemone spp.	- - -
Arthemis tinctoria	Golden Marguerite
Campanula persicifolia	Peach lvd. Bellflower
Coriopsis spp.	Tickseed
Dicentra eximia	Fringed bleeding heart
Echinacia	Cone flower
Gyposophila	Babies breath
Hemerocallis	Daylily
Heuchera sanginium	Coral bell
Hypericum spp.	- - -
Monarda	Bee balm
Myosotis	Forget me not
Platycodon spp.	Balloon blower
Physostegia virginiana	Obedient Plant
Phlox paniculata	Garden Phlox
Rudbeckia spp.	Black eyed susan
Salvia superba	- - -
Sedum spectabile	Stone crop
Veronica spp.	Speedwell
Viola	Violets

Perennials which prefer moist conditions

Astilbe spp.	False spirea
Anemone	- - -
Brunnera macrophyllla	Siberian bugloss
Filipendula rubra	Meadow sweet
Epimedium spp.	Bishops hat
Lythrum spp.	Loosestrife
Ligularia	- - -

Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower
Monarda	Bee balm
Phlox divaricata	Woodland phlox
Primula japonica	Japanese primrose
Trollius	Globe flower
Thalictrum	Meadow rue

Perennials for low maintenance

Acanthus spinossisimus	Bears breeches
Alchemilla mollis	Ladies mantle
Anemone japonica	Japanese anemone
Bergenia cordifolia	Leather leaf
Brunnera macrophylla	Siberian bugloss
Coriopsis spp.	Tickseed
Echinacia	Globe thistle
Euphorbia epithymoides	Spurge
Gaura lindheimeri	White gaura
Geranium spp.	Cranesbill
Geum borisii	Avens
Helliborus spp.	Lenten rose
Hemerocallis spp.	Daylily
Heuchera sanguinium	Coral bell
Hosta spp.	Funkia
Liriope	Lily turf
Sedum spectabile	Stone crop
Stachys byzantina	Lambs ears
Stokesia leavis	Stokes aster
Thermopsis caroliniana	Carolina lupine

Perennials with gray foliage

Achillea X argentea
Anaphalis triplinervis
A. X "Moonshine"
Artemesia absinthium—"Lambrook Silver"
A. schmidtiana—Silver mound
A. stellerana
Arthemis cupaniana
A. marschalliana
Antennaria dioica—Pussy toes
Cerastium tomentosum
Chrysanthemum hosmariense
Dianthus spp.
Eringium alpinum
Festuca ovina glauca
Helianthemum nummularium
Lavendula angustifolia
Lychnis coronaria alba
Nepeta musinii
Perovskia atriplicifolia ? Russian sage
Santolina chamaecyparissus
Senecio spp.—not hardy but worth the effort
Stachys byzantina
Salvia incana nana
Tanacetum haradjanii
Teucrium fruticans
Thymus lanuginosus

Source: Lee Nelson, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome County.

Perennials for a Flower Border

Many of our favorite flowers are perennials-- plants whose roots live in the soil from year to year though the stems die every winter. Iris, peonies, and delphiniums belong to this group. Once planted, perennials need little care and bloom year after year. They add color to any border plantings and also provide many cut flowers for you and some to share with your friends.

Where to Grow Perennials

Of the many types of perennials, you can usually find one or more that will grow wherever there is good soil. Certain perennials do well in shade, others must have sun all day; but most must have a half day of sunlight. Too much wind is hard on any kind of flower; so plant your perennials in rather protected places. Good backgrounds for perennials are a shrub border, a hedge, or a green fence. They look well along a lawn edge, in front of shrubbery, or in the small strip between the boundary line and the driveway.

Planning a Perennial Border

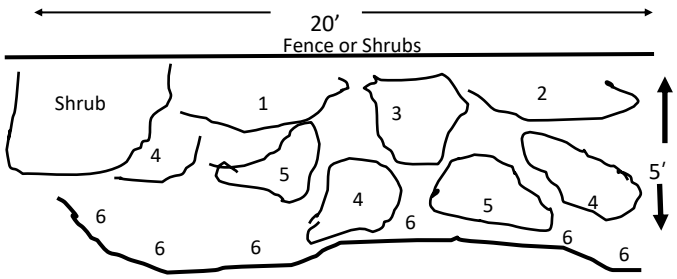
To prevent disappointment and confusion and to assure a pleasing perennial border draw a plan of your border. Use a scale of 1 inch for each 2 feet of border, or 1 inch for each 1 foot of garden. If your border is 20 feet long and 5 feet wide, the plan will fit on a piece of paper a little longer than 10 inches by 2 1/2 inches wide, or 20 inches by 5 inches, depending on the scale you use.

A flower border with a slightly curved front edge is more pleasing to the eye than one with a straight edge. Place the plants in groups rather than in straight rows and plant the taller growing perennials at the back of the border where they will not shade the shorter ones.

Select varieties that bloom at different times so that you will have flowers in bloom all season. Also, select pleasing color and variety combinations. Write on the plan where each group of perennials is to be planted, the color, the variety, and the plant name. Because some perennials are best planted in spring, some in summer, and others in fall, do not try to set an entire border at one time. Check perennial gardening catalogs for low growing varieties. New introductions include dwarf iris, phlox, balloon flower, gaillardia, and many spring flowering bulbs.

Until your perennial bed is completely planted, you may want to use some annual flowers. Then, when it is the correct time to plant the perennials, remove the annuals.

Your perennial border plan may look like the one shown below. (not drawn to scale).



A perennial border, 20 by 5 feet

Key	Name	Color	Number of Plants
1	Hollyhock	White	4
2	Delphinium	Blue	6
3	Phlox	Red	5
4	Bleeding Heart	Pink	9
5	Wild blue indigo	Blue	10
6	Evergreen candytuft	White	15

Starting Perennials

From Seed

Many perennials can be grown cheaply from seed. In early summer, start the seeds in a cold frame or in an area set aside from the rest of your border. After the seeds germinate, you may need to thin the plants. Then they can be set in their proper place in the flower border during August and September.

By Division

Another way to get plants is to divide a clump that has grown for 3 or 4 years. Perhaps a friend or neighbor will give you some divisions. In general, the rule is to divide late summer bloomers in the spring and spring bloomers and early summer perennials in the fall.

Care of Perennials

During the growing season, work the soil around the plants about an inch deep. Be sure the soil does not bake or become waterlogged, and never work the soil if it is so wet that it sticks to your tools. Destroy all weeds-the smaller they are, the easier they pull. A 1-inch layer of grass clippings or a 3-inch layer of peat moss spread around the plants and on the bare spots in the border not only keep down weeds, but also helps to hold moisture during summer. This is called a mulch. A 3-inch layer of straw can be used, but straw is bulky and coarse looking. To fertilize perennials, either (1) apply well-rotted manure or compost around the plants in the fall and work it into the ground in the spring; or (2) water a complete commercial fertilizer (5-10-5) into the soil during spring. Use from 3 to 5 pounds on 100 square feet of garden area.

During hot summer weather, water the perennials only if you have water enough to let it run among the plants for several hours at a time. Slight watering causes the roots to come to the surface where they are likely to dry. Mulches help to keep moisture in the flower bed.

Tall-growing plants, such as delphiniums, may need single stakes to hold up the flowering spikes. Tie single stalks loosely to prevent the stem of the plant from snapping. To support the shorter-growing perennials, you many stick small branches into the ground. Hoops with three legs are also used. Regardless of the kinds of supports you use, be sure they will not be seen by the passerby.

Spring Blooming Perennials

Your perennial garden may have some of all of the flowering plants discussed in the following paragraphs.

Peonies

Peony, a hardy perennial, used to be know as the *Old Red Piney.* Now it's just often called the *Grand Old Lady* of the flower border.

Peonies bloom from May to June and make a good background for annuals. They also make a good, low, summer hedge. Peony foliage is excellent in flower arrangements, too. Because peonies grow about 3 feet tall, set them at the back or middle of your perennial border. They like lots of sun; so do not plant them on the north side of the house or underneath trees and shrubs. Peonies have four flower types, from a single circle of petals with a yellow center to a completely double flower. Each type has a name: single, Japanese, anemone, and the double types. Their colors shade from red to white.

Your perennial border peonies may come from an old clump. Dig it up in September and cut it apart carefully so that you will not break any of the buds, or eyes, from the thick roots. Each root, or "toe", that has three or more eyes makes a new plant. As you set each division, or "toe", be sure the eyes are only 1 to 2 inches underneath the ground. If you plant them deeper, they will not bloom. Set the plants 3 feet apart, for peonies need plenty of room. Have a good "meal" ready for them. Into each hole, drop a shovelful of rotted manure or compost and a handful of complete fertilizer (5-10-5, 4-12-4) and mix thoroughly. That's what peonies eat. Do not expect your new peony plants to have many blooms the first year.

Bearded Iris

The name *iris* comes from the Latin word *Iridis,* or "rainbow." Sometimes iris is also called *flag*. Bearded iris, whose bloom resembles that of the orchid, puts on its "poor man's orchid" bloom in May. Iris needs little care, but likes good soil and plenty of sunlight. The stems, which are thick brown branches at or just below the surface, are called *rhizomes.* To get iris plants, divide some rhizomes in July or August and plant them in your perennial border.

Summer Blooming Perennials

Daylilies

The bright orange daylily that blooms along roads and on railroad banks is a summer perennial. Plant breeders have "tamed", or "changed", the color, and your garden may have yellow, orange, maroon, or pinkish daylilies. Many nursery gardeners grow only daylilies; for example, one catalog lists 175 different varieties, all alike except for flower color and height and each with a different name. A single plant may have from 50 to 75 blossoms; and by choosing only four of the many varieties, you can have blooms all summer.

Divide daylilies as soon as they have finished blooming. They like full sun or partial shade, but are content with only four hours of sunlight a day. Some daylilies grow only 2 feet tall; others show their flowers on 4-foot stems. Therefore, select a variety whose height and color fit into our border plan. Plant them in large clumps next to shrubbery or wherever you need lots of green foliage. Daylilies grow in practically all types of soil, but bloom more if you mix organic matter or compost into the soil when you plant them.

Gaillardia

Gaillardia, also known as *blanketflower,* has blooms of rich yellow with red centers. The cut flowers keep well and can be used for corsages. Gaillardia is easily divided in the spring and is happy in any soil except heavy clay. Since it blooms from June till after killing frosts, it can be planted in front of iris. The many soft, hairy leaves tend to hide the iris after it has finished blooming. With a height of 3 feet, gaillardia can be planted in the middle of the flower border. A low growing form is now available.

Coreopsis

Coreopsis is a popular yellow daisylike flower, sometimes called *tickseed* because its seed looks much like a tick bug. Coreopsis blooms from June till frost. The leaves are narrow and light green, and the yellow flowers are from 2 to 3 inches across. The flowers are on long graceful stems, making them attractive for indoor use. Continual removal of the faded flowers before seeds form assures a supply of coreopsis blooms all summer. It is best to divide the old, crowded plants in early spring and to reset them about 3 feet apart. All coreopsis asks is plenty of sunlight and good soil.

Shasta Daisy

Shasta daisy is a friendly neighbor for coreopsis. It, too, has daisylike flowers and blooms freely, giving many blossoms that fit into any summer flower arrangement inside or outdoors. Shasta daisy is related to fall mums. New varieties are double and look much like a chrysanthemum. Sun and good soil keep Shasta daisies content; so divide crowded plants in early spring and reset them near the front of the border since they grow to a height of about 2 feet. Bugs and diseases seldom bother shasta daisies.

Phlox

Phlox means *flame* in Greek. No doubt the bright red heads of phlox are the reason for its name. Phlox is found in many perennial gardens, probably because the large clusters of showy flowers come in many colors, and the plants vary in height and time of bloom. In fact, you can choose early and late varieties in all colors. A planting with colors graded from light pink to dark red is most striking. The blooms can also be used for cut flowers.

Phlox is best planted in groups in beds along driveways and paths and in front of shrubbery. Divide phlox in September and reset the outer sections of the old plants. They are hungry plants and need plenty of moisture and good rich soil. If set too close together, phlox may be attacked by mildew. Spray and mildewed plants with a fungicide material.

Fall-Blooming Perennials

Fall Asters

Nature plants a beautiful perennial garden along country roads and highways with wild blue asters and goldenrod. Your garden can be breaking into all shades of pink and blue with varieties of fall asters, also called *Michaelmas daisies.* Use white varieties between the blues to heighten the blue color. Both the tall and low varieties bring that needed color to your perennial border. Fall asters, as the name implies, bloom largely during autumn and have many uses. Plant the taller varieties to hide fences or as a background for lower perennials. They are at home in a naturalistic planting and might even be planted along the barn or garage.

Divide clumps in spring and reset them in your border. Asters grow best in full sun, but will bloom brightly in partial shade. The plants grow rapidly in almost any soil, and you will have to stake the tall varieties.

Hardy Chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemum is such a long name that these plants are called *mums*. Although generally said to be *hardy,* they do not always live through a hard winter. If you can't get plants in your own locally, buy only those that have proved hardy.

Divide mums in the spring and reset them about 2 feet apart. Mums like to eat well, so mix rotted manure with the soil when you set the plants. The most brilliant colored mums are harmed by frost, and should, therefore, be set in protected spots.

Source: Cornell Cooperative Extension Publication, E. F. Schaufler, Department of Floriculture, Cornell University (Revised 6/82).

Moss in the Home Lawn

What is Moss?
Mosses are a group of primitive plant species that can form a creeping green mat on home lawns. When conditions are favorable for its growth, mosses can grow to a sizeable thickness prohibiting turfgrasses from growing in these areas. Mosses reproduce by spores that are scattered in the wind or rain.

What Causes Moss?
Mosses are not a very competitive group of plants. Moss does not "crowd" the grasses; it merely occupies spaces where grass has not survived. Therefore, they occur most commonly on neglected lawns. Conditions favoring moss include low fertility, unadapted grass species, poor drainage, shade, and humidity. While mosses are most likely to grow in moist, shaded areas, they may also be found in thin turf and full sunlight. Closely mowed turf of nonaggressive species are especially prone to moss encroachment.

How Can Moss Be Controlled?
The first step to controlling moss is to correct the original problem. This may involve one or more of the following:

✓Increase nitrogen fertility
✓Raise the mowing height
✓Adjust irrigation practices to avoid excessive water
✓Improve drainage with tiles, dry wells, French drains or elevating depressions
✓Use a turfgrass species better adapted to the site such as fine fescue or rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialls)* in shaded sites

What About Chemical Control?
There is no guaranteed chemical control method for moss. The best method involves applying iron sulfate or ferrous ammonium sulfate at 1 pound per 1,000 square feet. Water the material in one hour after application or after the moss turns black. It is best to make this application in cool, humid weather. Repeat applications may be necessary. The moss should be raked out after it is dead, otherwise dead moss can form an impervious layer over the soil surface. Follow with an application of lawn fertilizer to encourage growth of desirable grasses back into these areas. If sizeable bare spots remain after removing the moss, it may be necessary to reestablish the spots by seeding or sodding.

CONDITIONS THAT FAVOR THE GROWTH OF MOSS:

✓LOW FERTILITY

✓UNADAPTED GRASS SPECIES

✓POOR DRAINAGE

✓SHADE

✓HUMIDITY

Source: Turfgrass Fact Sheet # 5. Cornell Cooperative Extension.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
Saturday, April 26, 2025 7:00 am—3:00 pm
Casella Landfill, 3555 County Road 49, Stanley, NY 14561
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Call Cornell Cooperative Extension Ontario County 585-394-3977 x 427
Registration open 3/31—4/24: Time slots are every 15 minutes starting at 7:00 am and the last one at 2:45 pm
No business or farm waste will be accepted.

FREE to Ontario County Residents ONLY

Materials Accepted at the Event
Acids, Adhesives, Aerosols, Antifreeze, Batteries, Boric Acid, Brake Fluid, Cements, Charcoal Lighters, Chlorine, Cleaning Fluid, Degreasers, Disinfectants, Drain Cleaners, Dry Gas, Dyes, Epoxies, Fiberglass Resins, Flea Powders, Furniture Strippers, Hair Removers, Herbicides, Insect Repellents, Lacquers, Lubricants, Mothballs or Flakes, Motor Oil, Nail Polisher Removers, Oven Cleaners, All Paints, Paint Removers, Paint Thinners, Permanent Solutions, Pesticides, Photo Chemicals, Rat Poisons, Rug & Upholstery Cleaners, Rust Solvents, Wood Preservatives, Spot Removers, Tub and Tile Cleaners, Turpentine, Varnish, Weed Killers, Wood Polishes & Stains. Products containing mercury, LED lightbulbs, and florescent light tubes.

Materials NOT Accepted at the Event
Household Electronics (TVs-flat screen and CRT's, computer monitors, cell phones, DVD players, VCRs, etc.) Automobile and truck tires, Compressed Gas Cylinders, Explosives or Shock-Sensitive Materials, Ammunition, Radioactive Wastes, Pathological Wastes, Infectious Waste, Medicines, PCB's, Freon containing devices (i.e. Air conditioners, dehumidifiers).

For information and other recycling events visit: OntarioCountyRecycles.org/150/Events

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HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

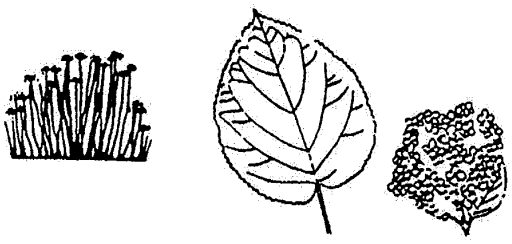
Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

Nassau County
Horticulture Program
East Meadow Farm
832 Merrick Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554
Phone: 516-565-5265

Hydrangea:

Types and How to Prune

There are many different types of Hydrangeas; many require different methods of pruning. First, one must know the identity of the Hydrangea growing in the landscape so the proper pruning procedure can be implemented.

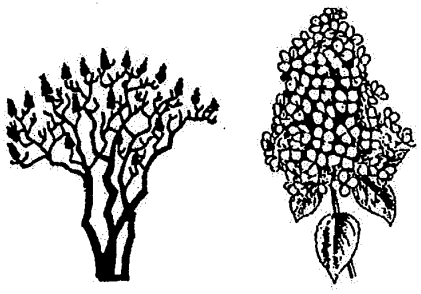


Hydrangea arborescens
'Grandiflora' (Hills-of-Snow-Hydrangea)

Prune Hills-of-Snow Hydrangea to the ground line each winter or early Spring because it flowers abundantly on new growth, and is frequently killed back during winter. If a larger shrub is desired (3+ feet) and/or it is not killed back over the winter, prune less severely. Remove certain branches to the ground; cut others back at varying heights of from 1 to 3 feet.

Hydrangea paniculata
'Grandiflora' (Peegee Hydrangea)

This is the most commonly planted Hydrangea because of its massive displays of large white flowers in mid to late summer. They gradually turn to pink and remain on the plant in a semi-dried condition long after the leaves have fallen. Pruning involves the removal of dead flowers, if unattractive, and annual corrective pruning of vigorous shoots. Thin and/or cut back the previous season's growth in late winter or early spring, since flower clusters occur on newly-developing branches. Without regular pruning, this Hydrangea can rapidly become quite overgrown and out-of-scale in the landscape. It can, however, be developed into a single or multi-stemmed tree form.



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Hydrangea macrophylla
(Hortensia or Florist Hydrangea)

A commonly grown Hydrangea with large globe-shaped flowers. It is frequently forced by florists and sold as an indoor pot plant during the spring season. Once moved outdoors, flower color is dependent upon the pH of the soil in which it is grown: blue if acid; pink if alkaline. There are also several white flowered cultivars. Pruning can be accomplished at two different times. Late summer is more desirable, since most hortensia types flower only from the end buds of upright or lateral shoots produced during late summer and fall of the previous season. Prune as soon as the flowers have faded and strong shoots are developing from the lower parts of the stems and crown. Remove at the base some of the weaker shoots that are both old and new. Always try to keep several stems of old productive wood, with a sufficient number of stout new stems that will flower the following season. Early Spring pruning (March), although acceptable will result in the sacrificing of bloom for that growing season.

Pruning this species too late in the fall (after September) is harmful. New growth, both vegetative and reproductive, will not develop proper maturity. As a good seashore shrub, flowering is more profuse in an open, sunny location. This, however, increases its vulnerability to bud killing. Winter protection of the plant should be initiated in December to preserve buds for next year's flowering. Tie the shoots together and wrap with burlap. If left unprotected, delay any Spring pruning until the buds swell in order to determine which wood needs to be removed, and then cut back to below the point of injury.

Hydrangea quercifolia
(Oakleaf Hydrangea)

This plant is grown primarily for its handsome oak leaf shaped foliage, excellent fall color, attractive flowers and interesting winter bark. Although more ideally suited to a lightly shaded or protected location, if grown in an exposed site, it is subject to some winter dieback. Prune back in early spring to remove dead or non-productive wood. Cut back to below the point of injury and remove old wood to the base.

Hydrangea anomala petiolaris
(Climbing Hydrangea)

A desirable mid-summer flowering woody vine that attaches itself by aerial roots to brick, masonry or wood. It requires little or no pruning. If certain shoots have grown out of bounds, reduce their length in summer. Frequently concern is expressed with climbing vines that may be innundating a tree and causing irreparable damage. There has never been a proven case of damage occuring from climbing hydrangea.

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READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE!

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