

Appendix: Hydrangeas

Michael A. Dirr's "**The Best of the Best**" (pp. 80-86) of Hydrangeas for American Gardens.

Hydrangea macrophylla and *Hydrangea serrata*—tried, true, recommended, available. Dirr's list does not include the new wave of remontant introductions, except for Endless Summer and Penny Mac. Doesn't include the *H.m.* cultivars like the Japanese Lady series, Hovaria series, and the 26 Teller series lacecaps—magnificent flowers but lack cold hardiness and have high mildew susceptibility.

- `All Summer Beauty'-mophead, pink to blue, mildew in September and October
- `Altona'-mophead, rose-madder to vivid deep blue; serrated to entire sepals; 7'
- `Ami Pasquier'-mophead, crimson to purple, sepals entire; significant flowers; 5'
- `Coerulea Lace'-lacecap, pink to blue, entire sepals, reliable not flashy, cold hardy and reblooming; listed as *H. japonica* var. *caerulea*; Japanese hybrid of *H. serrata* and *H. macrophylla*; blooms early
- `Dooley'-mophead, pink to blue, entire sepals, cold hardy, mildew susceptible; 6'
- `Endless Summer'-remontant; flowers on new growth; 3-5' high and wide
- `Europa'-mophead, pink to blue-purple, sepals etched; reliable, 5 ½'
- `Freudenstein'-mophead, reddish pink, Persian rose to blue; entire serrate sepals, 3-4'
- `Frilliber'-mophead, cream-yellow-blue, finally blue; frilly sepals, 5'
- `Geisha Girl'-(*H. serrata*)-lacecap, white to pink, rose, burgundy; serrated sepals; small inflorescences (4") upright habit; mildew susceptible. 'Tokyo Delight' and 'Rosalba' are similar
- `Generale Vicomtesse de Vibraye'-mophead; opens soft cream-yellow, finally pink to blue; entire serrated sepals; reliable; 8' plant with 10" inflorescences; early French hybrid; abundant flowers, strong growth in trials
- `Grayswood'-*H. serrata*-lacecap, white aging to pink, rose; toothed sepals; florets borne from lower buds along shoots; 3 ½ to 6'; delicate and beautiful in flower; mildew
- `Lanarth White'-lacecap; white with pink to blue center; sepals entire and showy; 4 ½-7'
- `Lilacina'-lacecap; pink to phlox pink; lilac to blue; imperial purple; serrated sepals; fertile flowers a good blue; extremely reliable; reblooming; 4-6'; slight mildew problem
- `Mme Emile Mouillere'-mophead; butter-cream to white, pinkish with age, center eye pink or blue; serrated sepals; extremely reliable; "best white mophead for general use" (p. 84); tall and vigorous; good for cold hardiness
- `Mousseline'-mophead; pink to light blue; sepals entire; flowers early, not well known in US
- `Nikko Blue'-mophead; pink to blue; consistently listed as cold hardy and remontant cultivar
- `Preziosa'-(*H. serrata* x *H. macrophylla*); smaller than typical *macrophylla*; pale cream, white, pink rose to red, lilac, violet; good autumn color; one of the worst for mildew; 5'.
- `White Wave'-lacecap, white aging to pink, serrated sepals; fertile flowers pink or blue; side shoots produce flowers (i.e., buds lower on the stem); mildew resistant.

Michael A. Dirr's "Hydrangeas Worthy of Cursory Introduction," Hydrangeas for American Gardens (pp. 161-9). These taxa belong to the "black hole" of *Hydrangea* taxonomy.

Hydrangea angustipetala Hayata is not a separate species but is lumped under *H. scandens* subsp. *chinensis*. Grows to 5'; lacecap, cream-yellow fertile flowers and 4, white, spatulate sepals which age to yellow. Zones 7-9, partial shade; moist soil.

H. hirta Siebold-native to Japan; grows 3-5'; 1-4" inflorescences of sterile flowers, typically blue, but also cream-white to pinkish white and delicately scented.

H. indochinensis Merrill --purple undersides of foliage are unique; lacecap; lavender-lilac to blue fertile flowers, overlapping white, blue to pale lilac 4-5 sepals.

H. integrifolia Hayata—evergreen vine or scandent shrub; 8" inflorescences consisting of white, fertile flowers with sterile flowers, 2-3 sepals; fertile flowers have 4-5 sepals and petals; late flowering; native to Taiwan and Philippines; Zones 8 and 9(10) on West Coast.

H. lobbii Maximowicz—evergreen species from the Philippines; upright habit to 5'; remains free of mildew; 4-5 white ray flowers composed of 4 lightly serrated sepals

H. longipes Franchet—medium-sized, spreading, deciduous shrub; lacecap with flowers 4-6" wide.

H. luteovenosa Koidzumi—same as *H. scandens* subsp. *liukiensis*; white sepals; mophead in double, pink-and yellow flowered types

H. scandens Linnaeus/Seringe—3-6'; deciduous shrub; lacecap, white sepals

H. seemannii Riley—evergreen vine; slightly domed-shaped inflorescences, fertile flowers; flower buds are enclosed by conspicuous bract.

H. serratifolia Philipp—evergreen vine, flowers 6" and 304" wide with primarily white fertile flowers; native to Chile and Argentina where it grows 100' high.

H. sikokiana Maximowicz—rarest of all Hydrangeas; deciduous shrub grows 5' high and wide; flowers are white and mature in mid to late June

H. umbellate Rehder—"the biggest morass of all"; white lacecap flowers, mixture of white sepals and fertile flowers, very showy; opens in May in zone 7; grows 4 to 5 feet

Daniel J. Hinkley (p. 62) also discusses less well known members of the genus:

Hydrangea angustipetala—found in the high elevations of Taiwan and southern Japan; is suitable for Zones 7-8; is early blossoming (mid-March to mid-April); and has long and narrow foliage; infertile florets surround[ing] a disk of chartreuse fertile flowers with a "faint but beguiling fragrance."

H. scandens—suitable for Zones 6-8; a sprawling shrub; with burgundy-brown branches; lacy cream-colored flowers with powerful fragrance during March; 'Fragrant Splash' has variegated foliage.

H. aspera—suitable for Zones 6-9; found throughout Asia; one of the latest to bloom into late Autumn; he collected a naturally occurring mutant mophead form of this species in Sichuan Province in 1998 ('Elegant Sound Pavillion') which opens its flowers in late September, in shades of lime-chartreuse and then ripens to tones of ivory with a "blush of lavender."

H. sikokiana—suitable for Zones 6-9; found in the high elevations of Japan; more closely related to *H. aspera*; deeply lobed leaves which are 10" in length.