

Gardening with Sharon



Hydrangea Comparison Chart

Panicle and Smooth Hydrangeas for Plant Hardiness Zones 3 & 4 at a Glance

	Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangeas)	Hydrangea arborescens (Smooth Hydrangeas)
Hardiness	Zone 3-8 The most cold and sun hardy of all Hydrangeas Check labels for hardiness ratings	Zone 3-9 Check labels for hardiness ratings
Description	Reddish, sturdy, wooden stems Dark, leathery, smooth green leaves	Smooth, green flexible stems Soft, light green leaves
Flower Shape	Cone-shaped blossom bundle Varies in size by variety Flowers dry well	Large, broad, dome-shaped flower bundles Flower size is more consistent between varieties than paniculata types Flowers dry well

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Bloom Time	Mid-August - late fall Can take up to 3 years to bloom	Mid-August - late fall Can take up to 3 years to bloom
Sun Exposure	Can have more than 6 hours, but early morning or late afternoon is best Afternoon shade is preferable	Can have more than 6 hours, but early morning or late afternoon is best Afternoon shade is preferable
Pruning	Lightly trim branch tips to a fat bud in either late fall or early spring before leafing out.	Prune back to 30cm (12") from soil level in late fall or early spring before leafing out.
Recommended varieties	Pinky Winky Bombshell Limelight Little Lime Quick Fire Little Quick Fire Fire Light Bobo Lavalamp Flare Pee Gee	Annabelle Incrediball Invincibelle Spirit Invincibelle Ruby © Sharon Wallish Murphy © Gardening with Sharon

