

Lacecaps, Mopheads and Sterile Florets; A Closer Look at Hydrangeas



I'm Adam



I'M A PLANT NUT



I like to grow things.....



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PDF of Presentation

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Password = rainfall

Come Buy Some Plants!

- 10% Discount Code **Hydrangea10**
- For Onsite Purchases Only
- One Time Use (Any Plants – Not Just Hydrangeas)
- Valid From July 9th to September 4th 2026

The Plan of Attack!

1) Introduction to Hydrangeas

2) Use in the Garden

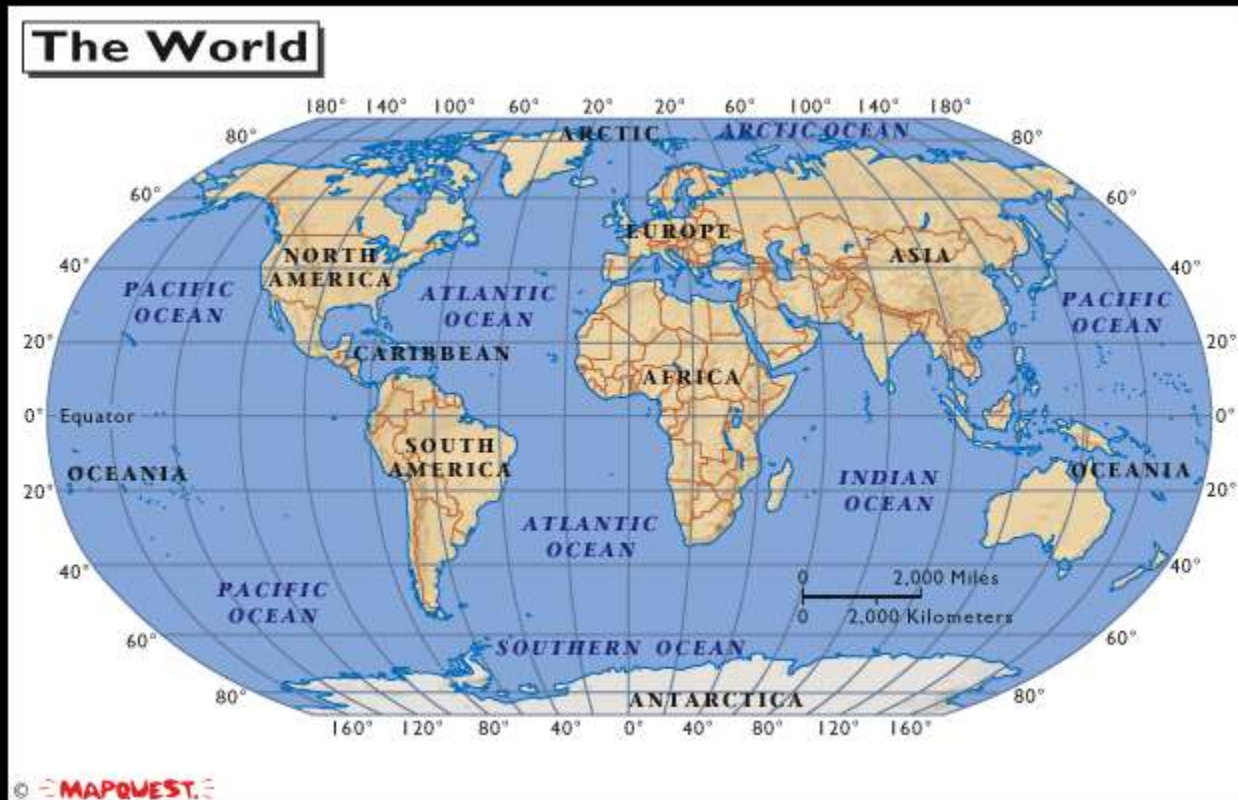
3) My Favorites!

“If ever a group of plants, when in full plumage, overshadowed their subordinates, the hydrangeas do, eloquently and forcefully”

- Dr. Michael Dirr

The Genus Hydrangea

- 18-33 species that span the globe



Variable Habit





Variable Flower Display





Mophead



Lacecap



Panicle



Variable Color





Variable Foliage



All Should Find A Place for a Hydrangea in the Garden



At Their Best in Summer







Foundation Plantings

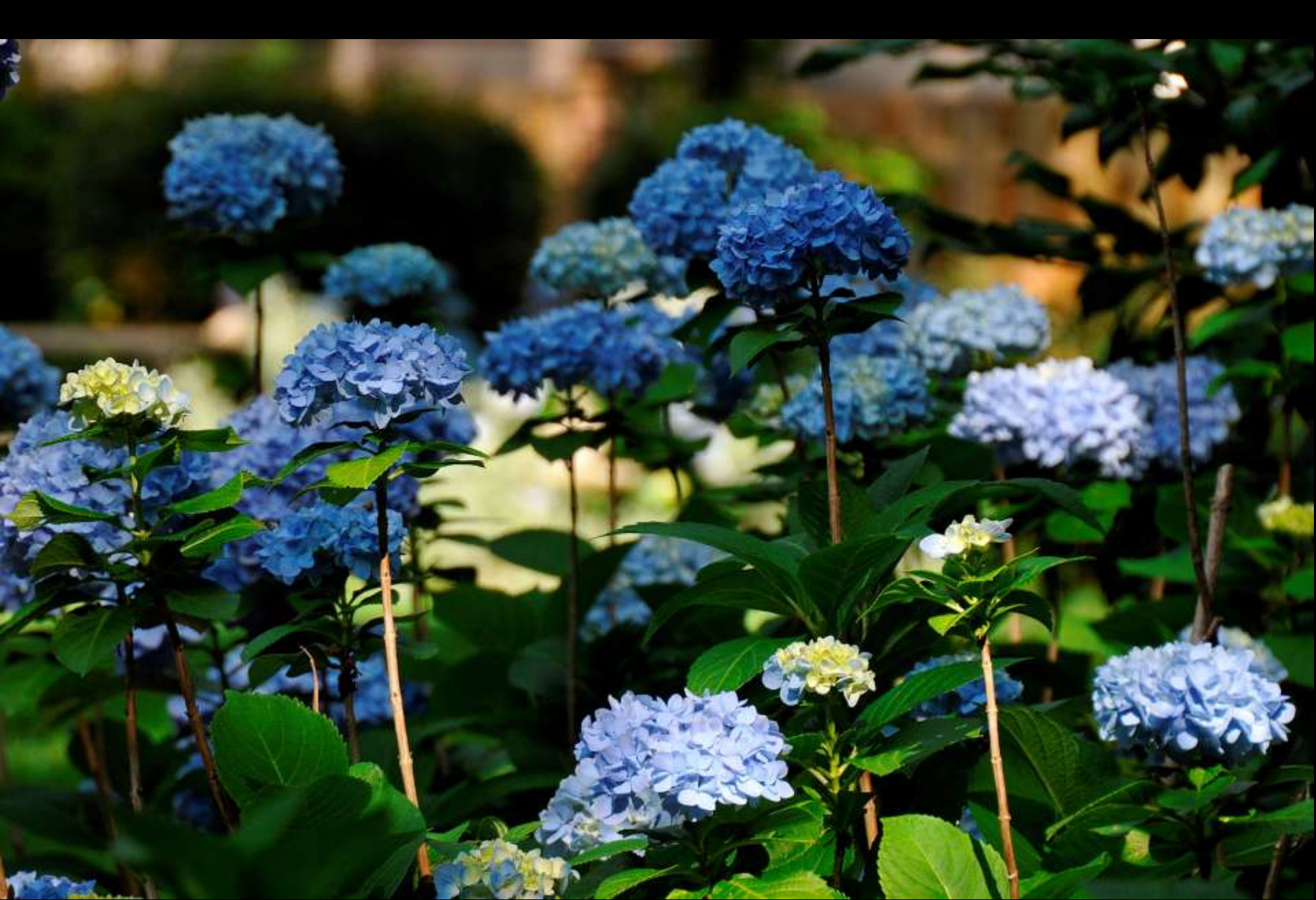






En masse





Border





General Cultural Requirements

- Sun to Part Shade
- Rich, evenly moist, well-drained soils
- Acid to Neutral soils
- Moderate to high nutrient levels
- Avoid frost pockets

To Prune or Not to Prune?



Does My Hydrangea Flower on Old Growth or New Growth?



Old Wood Vs. New Wood

Old Wood

- *Hydrangea macrophylla*
- *Hydrangea serrata*
- *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- *Hydrangea anomola*

New Wood

- *Hydrangea arborescens*
- *Hydrangea paniculata*

Old Wood = Flower buds form on last years growth

New Wood = Flower buds form on current years growth

General Guidelines for When to Prune

Flower on Old Wood

- Prune with caution
- Best early in growing season (April – July)

Flower on New Wood

- More flexibility
- Avoid pruning late in growing season (Sept – Nov)

Reasons to Prune

- 1) Winter damage
- 2) Aesthetics
 - Deadheading
 - Too Large
 - Irregular branching
- 3) Improved vigor/larger flowers

What's Wrong.... My Hydrangea Won't Flower!



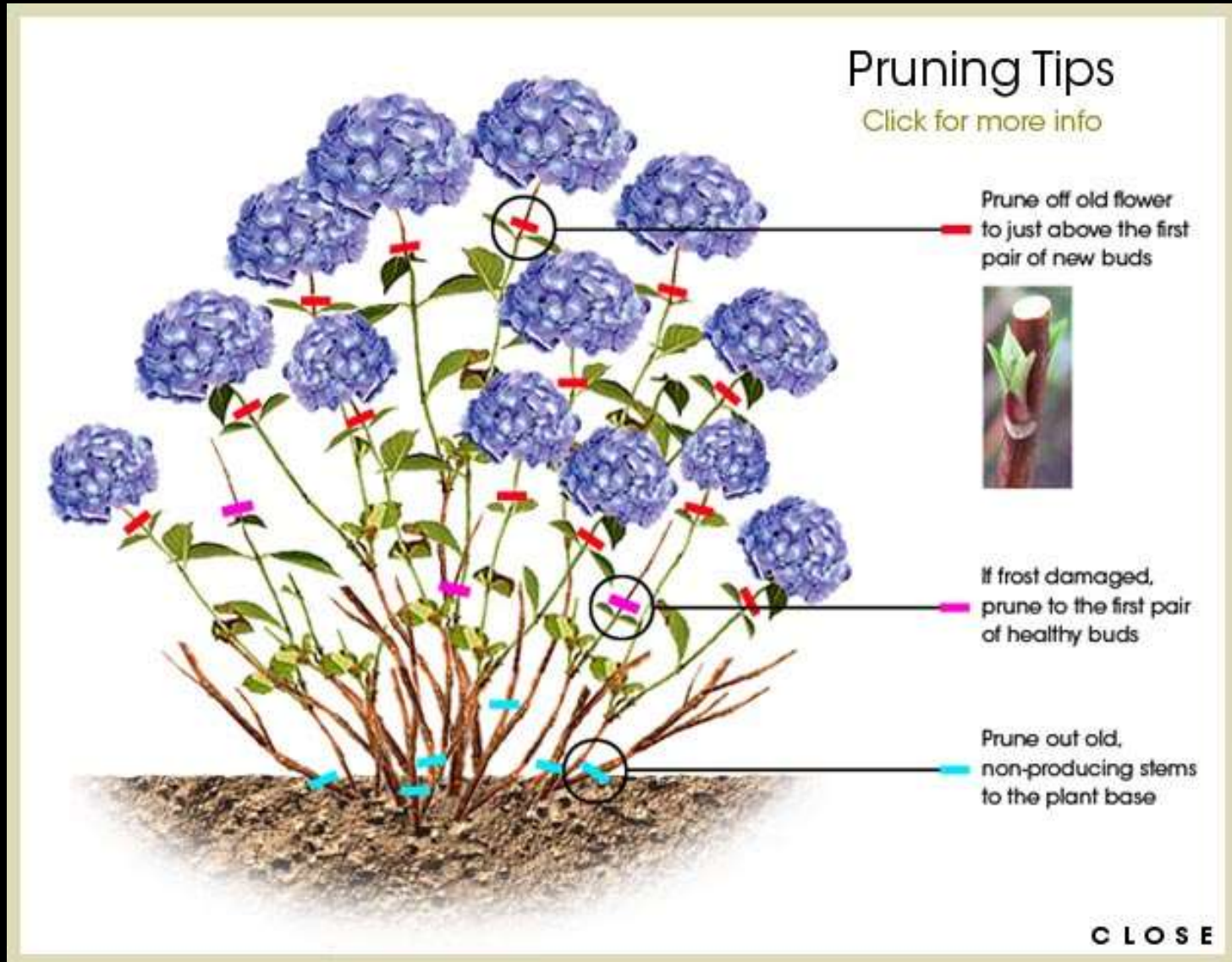
Pruning Winter Damage

Step 1: Wait until growth begins

Step 2: Identify dead wood

Step 3: Prune back to live wood

Deadheading







On To The Plants!



Hydrangea arborescens
Smooth Hydrangea



- Zone 3
- Eastern US Native
- 3-5' Tall, 4-8' Wide
- Terminal Flowers on New Wood
- June – End of Summer



Hydrangea arborescens in Virginia



Woodland in North Carolina

Straight Species Flower



‘Annabelle’









'Samantha'





'Haas Halo' PP 21302





'Hayes Starburst'









'Green Dragon'







'Pink Pincushion'





'NCHA3' Invincibelle® Ruby PPAF









Hydrangea paniculata
Panicle Hydrangea



- Japan and China Native
- Zone 3
- Large Shrub, Small Tree 10-25'
- Vigorous, Often Fountain-like
- White Flowers, July to end of Summer
- Flowers on New Wood









'SMHPFL' Firelight® PP 25135







'Dharuma'







'Limelight'







‘Yuki Gessho’







Hydrangea macrophylla
Bigleaf Hydrangea



- Native to Japan
- Zone 6 (5)
- Rounded shrubs 3-6' high and wide
- Pink, white or blue flowers
- Generally on old growth
- 300+ Cultivars!

Color Me Pink – Color Me Blue

High pH (Basic Soil)



Low pH (Acidic Soil)



Remontant Bigleaf Hydrangeas

- Traditional bigleaf hydrangeas produce flower buds only on old wood
- Remontant hydrangeas produce flowers on both old wood and new wood

'Bailmer' Endless Summer®





'Penny Mac'





‘Lady in Red’













‘Dancing Snow’





'Ayesha'



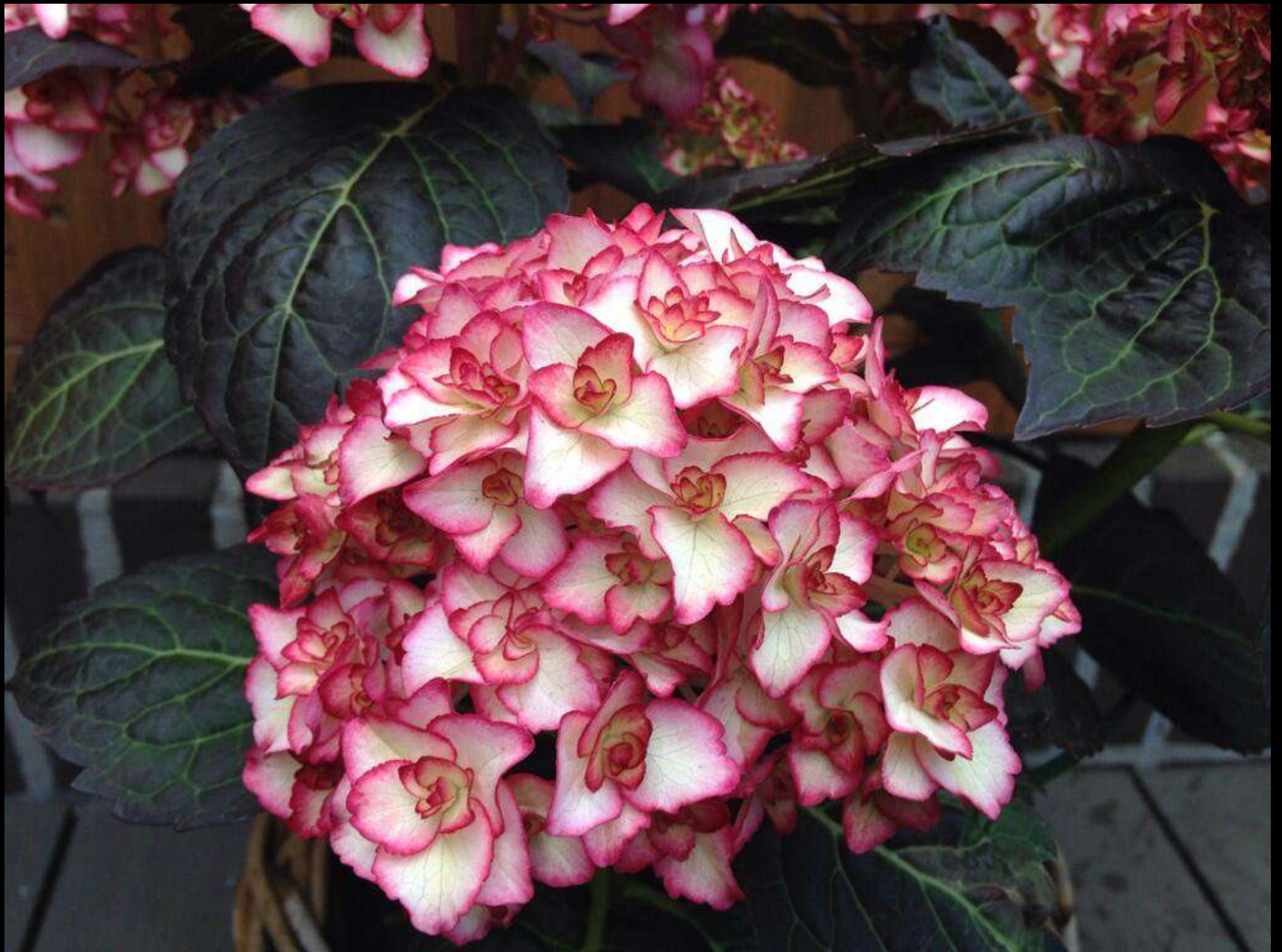




'H20-02' Miss Saori™ PP 26657







‘Horwack’ PPAF







‘New Wave’





'Hatsushimo'





Hydrangea serrata
Mountain Hydrangea



- Similar to *H. macrophylla*
- Slightly more cold hardy (Zone 5)
- Native to Japan and Korea
- Flower on older growth

'Bluebird'







'Hallasan'



'Kiyosumi'







‘Miyami Yae Murasaki’







‘Mountain Mania’





'Oamacha Variegata'







Hydrangea quercifolia
Oakleaf Hydrangea



- Zone 5
- Southeast US native
- Large shrubs, 4-8' Tall, 6-12' Wide
- Oak-like leaves
- White flowers, peak display in July
- Flowers on old growth











‘Snowqueen’







‘Ruby Slippers’





'Snowflake'







‘Little Honey’









Hydrangea angustipetala



- Zone 6
- Japan, China, Taiwan
- Variable, deciduous or evergreen
- rounded habit, 5-6'
- Lacecap flowers, late spring to early summer
- Flowers on old wood

'Mon Long Shou'





Hydrangea aspera
Rough Leaf Hydrangea

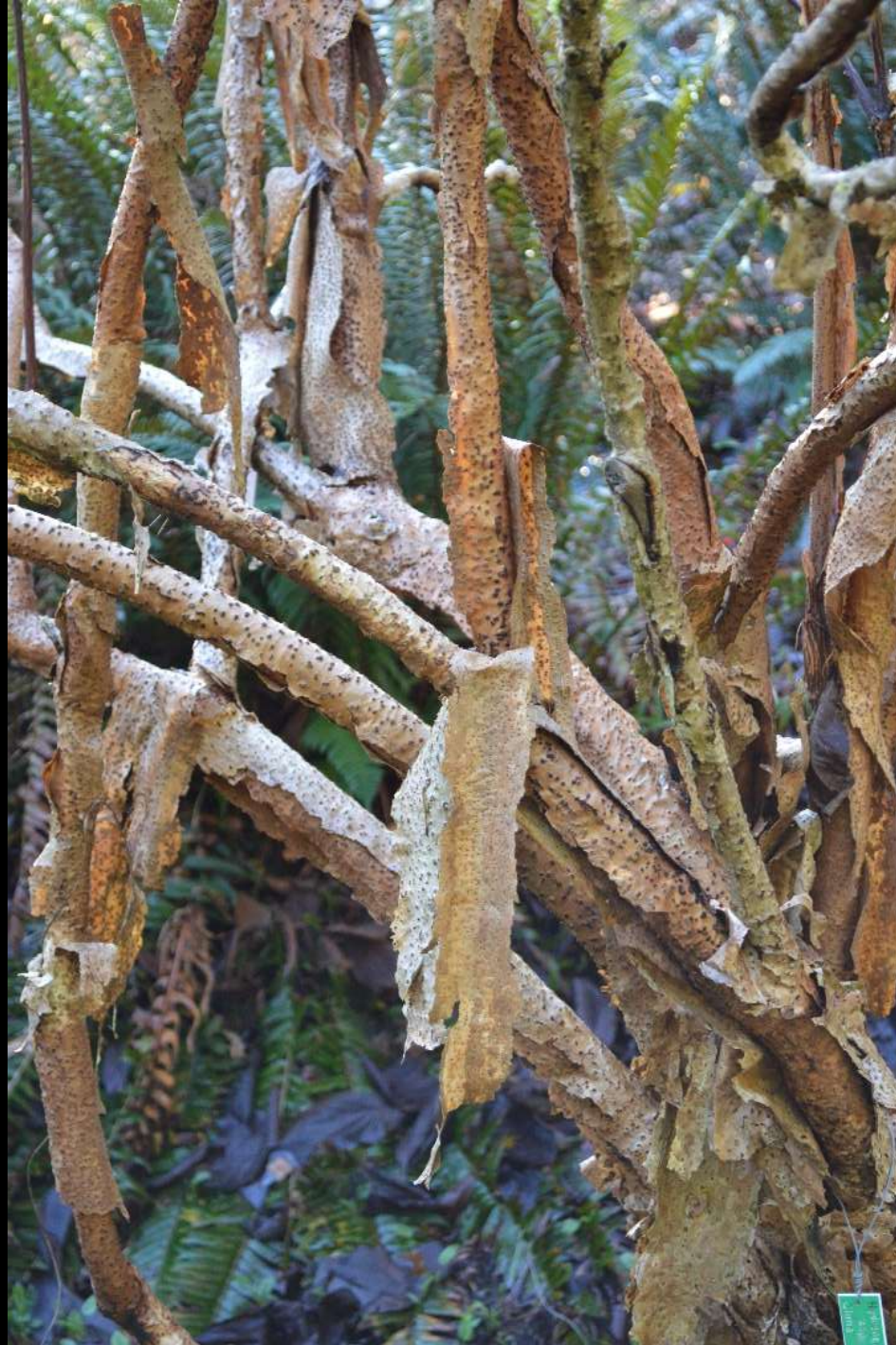


- Zone 6 (5)
- Himalayas, China, Taiwan and beyond
- Upright to Mounding habit, 10-15'
- Lacecap flowers, peak display in July
- Flowers on old wood
- Tolerant of high pH soils

Hydrangea aspera var. *macrophylla*



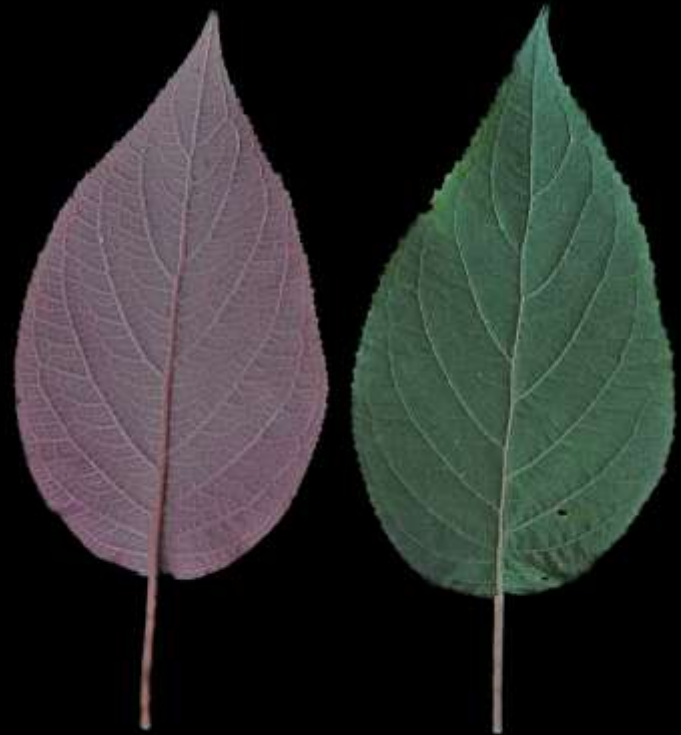








Hydrangea aspera var. *villosa* 'Koki'









Hydrangea anomola
Climbing Hydrangea



- Zone 5
- Vine
- Himalayas, China and Taiwan
- White, Lacecap flowers in June-July
- Flowers on old wood















'Early Light'



‘Mirranda’





‘Sutters Mill’



'Kuga Variegated'





Questions?



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