



The Proven Winners® Hydrangea guide

FIND YOUR PERFECT HYDRANGEA!



Simply the best!

There are so many Hydrangeas on the market, that you may be lost for choice. This booklet will help you to choose the right Hydrangeas for your garden, but first some background.

🌿 WHO ARE PROVEN WINNERS®?

We are a European network of enthusiastic plant growers! Our passion is to experiment and we are proud of bringing you new plant varieties. Breeding is either done by ourselves or by working together with our worldwide network of breeding specialists. Our mission is to provide the healthiest and strongest plants on the market so that even beginners can enjoy a rewarding gardening experience.

🌿 WHAT ARE PROVEN WINNERS® PLANTS?

Proven Winners® are a range of outdoor garden plants. They can be annuals, perennials or shrubs. Our criteria are that all plants should be easy to grow and maintain, offer something unique or different and that we can make them readily available across Europe. Very few plants are as thoroughly tested as Proven Winners®. All introductions are subject to a rigorous trial process which may take as long as five years. For the PW shrub range we test in Finland, the Netherlands, Michigan (USA) and Switzerland.

🌿 HOW TO RECOGNIZE PROVEN WINNERS® HYDRANGEAS?

All our Hydrangeas are supplied with the bespoke white container with the PW logo. The tag or label comes in the form of a diamond shaped booklet.

🌿 LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WITH PROVEN WINNERS® PLANTS

Proven Winners® breeds strong and vigorous varieties which require smaller amounts of insecticides and fungicides, if any. Being more resistant to disease and pests, Proven Winners® plants have higher heat and humidity tolerance and perform well in a range of different climates and environments.

The containers we use for shrubs are all 100% recyclable. In 2021, 90% was made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic. Our next step is reducing the environmental impact of the labels and help our growers with reducing the amount of peat used in the production process.

TRY A PROVEN WINNERS® HYDRANGEA, YOU WILL LOVE IT!

01

Hydrangea macrophylla

is the most common type of Hydrangea and are often called hortensia. The macrophylla varieties can be divided between so called mophead types, with flowers shaped like big balls, and lacecap types, with plate or saucer shaped flowers.

02

Mountain hydrangea

(Hydrangea serrata)

originate from Japan and Korea, which also have lacecap flowers but are in general better able to withstand cold winters. Serrata types will display a nice autumn leaf colour.

03

Panicle hydrangea

(Hydrangea paniculata)

have large, cone-shaped flowers. They start flowering in a white or light green colour but will transition spectacularly, to shades ranging from green and pink to hot red, depending on the variety. The strong stems of paniculata types become 'woody', allowing the shrub to reach a bigger height than most other types.

04

Hydrangea arborescens,

is one of the most winter hardy Hydrangea type but also the one that can withstand warmer climates. Often they are planted as flowering hedges. Most of the varieties used to have white flowers but recent breeding has led to varieties with other flower colours.

05

Oakleaf hydrangea

or **Hydrangea quercifolia**

are easily distinguished by their different leafshape. Oakleaves flower best in areas with hot summers. Its flowers bloom white, green or pink. In autumn they will provide you with a wonderful show of orange to burgundy leaf colours.

Which one to choose?

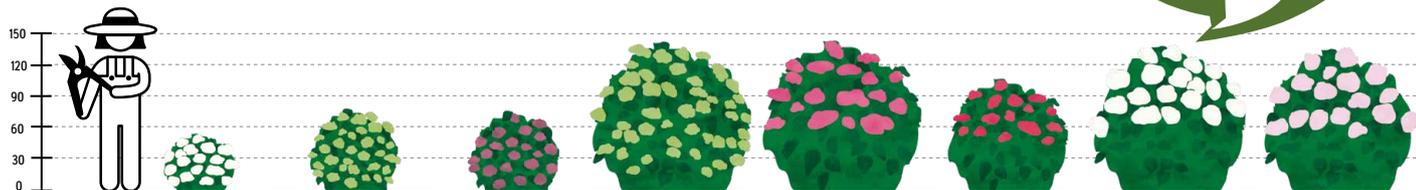
There are over 20 Hydrangeas types or species of which five are most frequently used, and very suitable, for gardening.



Arborescens

Proven Winners® arborescens varieties grow on all types of soil and are frost resistant to -30°C. Flowering starts in early summer and lasts till early autumn. Flowers of all Proven Winners® arborescens varieties are supported by strong branches. Just like roses, you may want to 'dead head' faded flowers. We have noticed that particularly BellaRagazza® Limetta responds very well to this by re-flowering abundantly.

DID YOU KNOW?
Normal arborescens struggle in rain and/or wind, with their heavy flowers quickly falling to the ground. PW breeders were the first to solve this problem, by achieving much stronger flower stems.



| | BellaRagazza® Blanchetta | BellaRagazza® Limetta | BellaRagazza® Mauvette | Lime Rickey® | Pink Annabelle® | Ruby Annabelle® | Strong Annabelle® | Sweet Annabelle® |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| COLOUR | white | lime green | deep pink-purple | lime green | pink | ruby red | pure white | silvery pink |
| COLOUR EVOLUTION | starts pale pink | to white green | to light green | | | | to jade green | to light green |
| FLOWERING | summer | summer - early autumn | summer - early autumn | summer - early autumn | summer - early autumn | summer | summer - early autumn | summer - early autumn |
| HEIGHT FROM TO | 40/60 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 120/150 | 120/150 | 90/120 | 120/150 | 120/150 |
| SPREAD FROM TO | 60/90 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 90/120 | 90/120 | 60/90 | 90/120 | 90/120 |
| HABIT | compact | compact | compact | bushy | bushy | bushy | bushy | bushy |
| MAIN FEATURE | super dwarf habit | dwarf habit and green flowers | small habit very strong branches | lime green flowers bottom to top | unique pink color | deep red flower colour | the original with strong branches | huge silvery pink flowers |
| OTHER FEATURE | long flowering | continuous flowering | long flowering | abundant flowering | continuous flowering | long flowering | long flowering | long flowering |
| AWARD | | gold | | | silver | gold | bronze | bronze |

FLOWERS ON NEW WOOD
PRUNING PERIOD: EARLY SPRING

PH ACID/ NEUTRAL/ ALKALINE
FLOWER SHAPE: BALL





BELLARAGAZZA® MAUVETTE



LIME RICKEY®



RUBY ANNABELLE®

Uniquely
strong
branches

Decades of research have resulted in the widest range of choices for you. From the very small compact BellaRagazza® Blanchetta to the tall Sweet Annabelle®. From the white of Strong Annabelle® to deep pink coloured BellaRagazza® Mauvette. You will find that our selection covers the most colours and sizes available in the market.



BELLARAGAZZA® LIMETTA



PINK ANNABELLE®



STRONG ANNABELLE®



SWEET ANNABELLE®



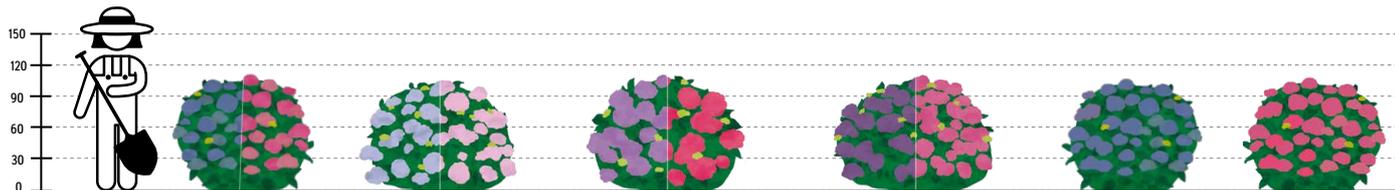
BELLARAGAZZA® BLANCHETTA

Macrophylla & Serrata

We have grouped the PW macrophylla and serrata under one brand name, the Flair & Flavours®. In the Flair & Flavours® group you find a full range of colours and different flower shapes.

Soil chemistry determines whether your macrophylla or serrata will flower blueish-purplish or pink-reddish. More neutral or alkaline soils, with a higher pH, make the flowers of your Hydrangea tend towards their natural colour of pink and white. In general, an acid soil (with lower pH) will make the flower more blueish-purplish. Did you know you can influence this? By adding a small gift of 'aluminium' powder in autumn. Such powder is available in better garden centres.

DID YOU KNOW?
Macrophylla types do need more feeding and moisture than other Hydrangea.



| | F&F Sweet Marshmallow F&F Sweet Cupcake | F&F Blue Sprinkles F&F Pink Sweethearts | F&F Blackberry Pie F&F Strawberry n Cream | F&F Blueberry Cheesecake F&F Cotton Candy | F&F Blackcurrant Muffin® | F&F Raspberry Lemonade |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| COLOUR | pop blue / pink | pale blue / soft pink | red-purple / strawberry red | purple-blue / sweet pink | purple blue | raspberry red |
| FLOWERING | late spring - late summer | late spring - late summer | late spring - late summer | late spring - late summer | late spring - late summer | late spring - late summer |
| HEIGHT FROM TO | 80/100 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 80/100 | 80/100 |
| SPREAD FROM TO | 90/120 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 60/90 | 90/120 | 90/120 |
| MAIN FEATURE | abundant long flowering | waterlily shaped petals | reddish purple/ strawberry flowers | flowers with a cute yellow centre | abundant long flowering | abundant long flowering |
| OTHER FEATURE | for terrasse and garden | abundant long flowering | abundant long flowering | abundant long flowering | for terrasse and garden | for terrasse and garden |
| FLOWER SHAPE | ball | lace-cap | lace-cap | lace-cap | ball | ball |
| AWARD | | | | gold | | |

FLOWERS ON NEW AND OLD WOOD
PRUNING PERIOD: OLD FLOWERS IN SPRING

PH SEE ABOVE
HABIT: COMPACT BUSHY





F&F SWEET CUPCAKE



F&F BLUE SPRINKLES



F&F STRAWBERRY'N CREAM



F&F COTTON CANDY



F&F SWEET MARSHMALLOW



F&F BLACKBERRY PIE

Very hardy



F&F PINK SWEETHEARTS



F&F BLACKCURRANT MUFFIN®



F&F RASPBERRY LEMONADE

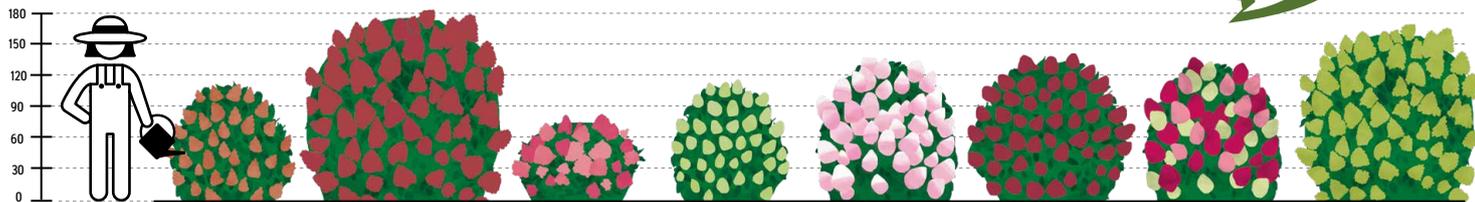


F&F BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE

Paniculata

Proven Winners® paniculata are one of the easiest to grow in any garden and will make you look like a horticultural hero! The Proven Winners® selection is exceptionally floriferous and they all undergo a natural colour change, transforming them from white or green to pink and red tones as the flower ages. Unlike macrophylla and serrata types this happens independent of the soil chemistry (pH).

DID YOU KNOW?
Light pruning of the strong woody branches will allow the bigger paniculata types to reach a considerable height relatively fast.



| | Little Quick Fire® | Quick Fire Fab® | Fire Light Tiny Bit® | Little Lime® | Pinkachu® | Fire Light® | Little Lime Punch® | Lime Light Prime® |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| COLOUR | white | white | white | lime green | creamy white | white | white and green | light green |
| COLOUR EVOLUTION | to pink red | to blush pink, bright pink, red | to pink red | to pink | to hot pink | to fiery pink-red | to pink, white, red, green | to pink/red |
| FLOWERING | late spring - summer | late spring - summer | early summer - late summer | early summer - early autumn | early summer - early autumn | early summer - early autumn | early summer - early autumn | early summer - early autumn |
| HEIGHT FROM TO | 90/120 | 150/200 | 60/90 | 90/120 | 120/150 | 120/150 | 90/150 | 120/180 |
| SPREAD FROM TO | 60/90 | 150/200 | 60/90 | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/150 | 120/150 |
| HABIT | compact bushy | upright | mounded | compact bushy | bushy | bushy | mounded | upright |
| MAIN FEATURE | very early flowering | early and long flowering | one of the smallest panicle Hydrangea | bestseller | strong stems carrying big flowers | intense red | festive mix | tall and bushy |
| OTHER FEATURE | compact habit | unique star shaped florets | long flowering | abundant flowering | abundant flowering | regular flower setting | long flowering | long and bright flowering |
| AWARD | | | | gold | silver | | | |

FLOWERS ON NEW WOOD
PRUNING PERIOD: EARLY SPRING

PH ACID/ NEUTRAL/ ALKALINE
FLOWER SHAPE: CONICAL





LITTLE QUICK FIRE®



FIRE LIGHT®



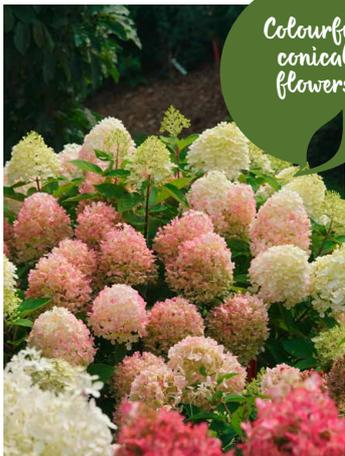
LIME LIGHT PRIME®



LITTLE LIME®



QUICK FIRE FAB®



FIRE LIGHT TINY BIT®



LITTLE LIME PUNCH®



PINKACHU®

Colourful
conical
flowers

🌿 In the Proven Winners® range you are sure to find the ideal paniculata for your garden. All the dimensions are there to choose from a vast colour palette, from early flowering Little Quick Fire® to late flowering Pinkachu®, from the small and compact Little Lime® to the big show of Fire Light.

The varieties Fire Light Tiny Bit®, Quick Fire Fab®, Little Lime® Punch, Little Quick Fire® give you a little extra, a wonderful autumn foliage.

Quercifolia

Proven Winners® quercifolia are all sold under the Gatsby® series name. Whereas most other Hydrangea's leaf shape is rather 'ordinary' quercifolia really stands out in the crowd. Their leaves are deeply lobed, like most oak trees. Plant your quercifolia in moist but well drained soil, and give it some shelter in the first years so that it establishes quickly.



DID YOU KNOW?

Quercifolia types start flowering white or green and change to red or pink as the season goes along. Gatsby® Pink is a fast mover, as it turns pink very quick, often within 10 days.



| | Gatsby® Girl | Gatsby® Moon | Gatsby® Pink | Gatsby® Star |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| COLOUR | white | white | white | lime green |
| COLOUR EVOLUTION | to pink | to green | to pink | to pink |
| FLOWERING | mid summer - early autumn | mid summer - early autumn | mid summer - early autumn | mid summer - early autumn |
| HEIGHT FROM TO | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/120 |
| SPREAD FROM TO | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/120 | 90/120 |
| HABIT | bushy | bushy | bushy | bushy |
| MAIN FEATURE | huge flowers | double flowers | very fast colour change to pink | star shape petals |
| OTHER FEATURE | oak-shaped leaves | oak-shaped leaves | oak-shaped leaves | oak-shaped leaves |

We already mentioned that serrata and certain paniculata Hydrangea have nice autumn colour but quercifolia puts on an even more spectacular show. The dark green foliage changes to various shades of bronze, orange and reddish purple.

FLOWERS ON NEW WOOD

PRUNING PERIOD: OPTIONAL, IN SPRING

PH NEUTRAL/ALKALINE

FLOWER SHAPE: CONICAL



-30°C



GATSBY® PINK



GATSBY® STAR



GATSBY® MOON

Autumn
colour
interest



GATSBY® GIRL



How to care for your Hydrangea?

PLANTING

Most shrubs are best planted in autumn and Hydrangea are no exception. It allows your Hydrangea to establish itself and start growing 'aligned with the seasons'. Early spring is a good alternative. As Hydrangea are not very demanding on soil type you will surely find a good spot in the garden. Most of them thrive in the full sun or half shade.

WATERING

Hydrangea, with its shallow root system, are notoriously water needy. Make sure that they are, and stay (!) moist by giving them sufficient water. But be careful, do not overwater as wet soil or stagnant water might cause the roots to rot.

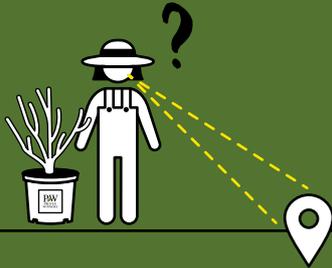
PESTS AND DISEASES

Hydrangea is probably one of the strongest genera around to grow in your garden. Healthy Hydrangea are rarely prone to diseases such as mildew and do not seem be favorites of harmful insects such as lice, trips, vine weevil and white fly. In case you do have problems with pests and diseases try pruning them back first before you use chemical treatment.

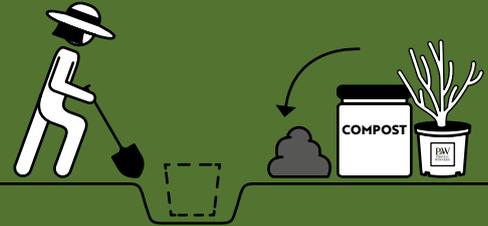
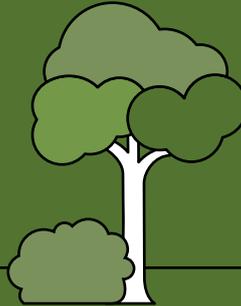
DID YOU KNOW?

Adding two to three-inch layer of mulch is a useful to better regulate moisture for your Hydrangea.

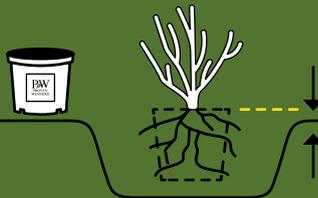
Planting instructions



- 01.** Pick an area with full sun (or half shade) to plant your Hydrangea.
- 02.** Make sure that the soil of the plant is moist.



- 03.** Dig a hole with the same depth as the pot but about 2-3x as wide.
- 04.** Mix the soil of the hole with some fresh compost.
- 05.** Turn the soil at the bottom of the hole to aerate.



- 06.** Then carefully remove the pot and loosen up the root system somewhat.
- 07.** Position the plant in the middle of the hole with the top of the root ball just above the top level of the hole.



- 08.** Fill the hole with the mixed soil, press the soil around the plant firmly with your hands.
- 09.** Water the plant.
- 10.** Apply a 5-7cm layer of mulch, but do not bury the stems or trunk.

PRUNING

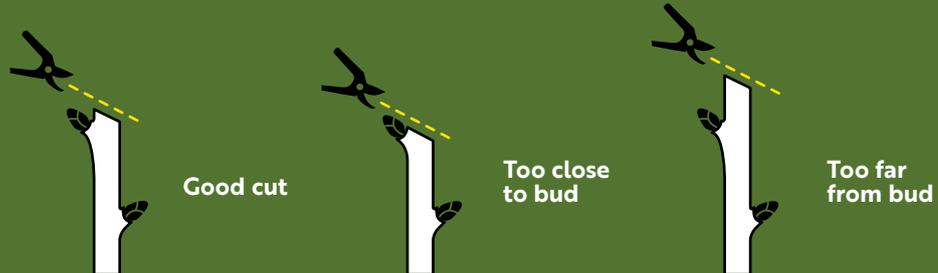
In general pruning helps plants to become more bushy and stay healthy. The best period to prune your Hydrangea is very late winter and early spring. Before you start check that the plants are (still) dormant, so without leaves and developing buds. Always use clean scissors which reduces the risk of spreading disease. When you prune, make your cut just above a set of large, healthy buds. If a branch is broken or dead, it can be removed completely. If in doubt, don't prune! No hydrangea requires pruning to grow and flower well.

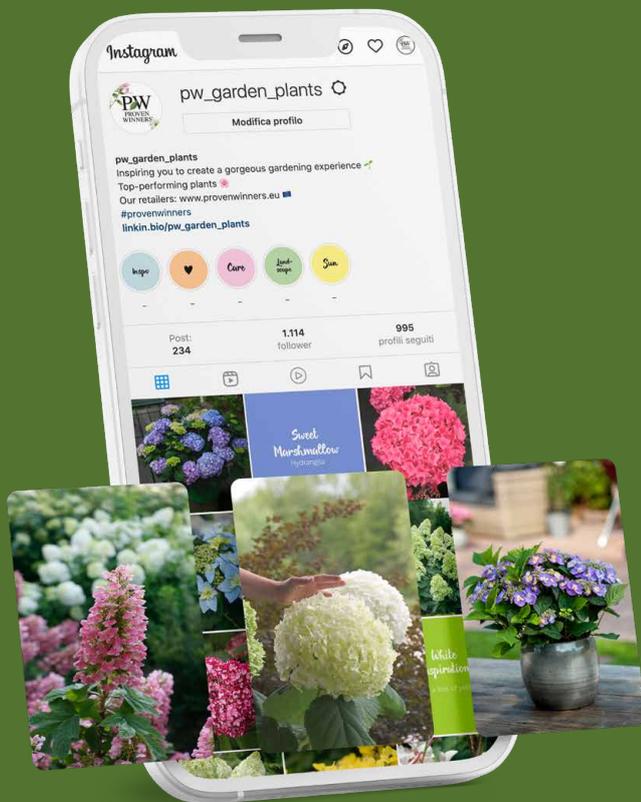
DID YOU KNOW?

That deadheading flowers of *Hydrangea arborescens*, *macrophylla* and *serrata* types increases the chance of reblooming?

Do note that between the 5 *Hydrangea* species or types described in this booklet there are some differences:

- 01.** *Arborescens* types naturally make groundshoots and the older branches are best pruned back to half or a third of the original stems. In case of the shorter *BellaRagazza*[®] *arborescens* try to leave at least 15-20cm of old wood.
- 02.** *Paniculata* types respond well to strong pruning by becoming more compact, if you prune them lightly they will gain height.
- 03.** *Quercifolia* support pruning down to half of the original stems but do not need a lot of it. After the plant has established itself it is really up to you.
- 04.** *Macrophylla* and *serrata* make most of their flowerbuds on last year's wood, so if you prune in spring you will get less flowers in summer. In spring simply tidy them up by taking off the old flowers. If you want the *macrophylla* and *serrata* to flower abundantly do not prune them too often, once every 3-5 years is enough.





FIND US

You can find your Proven Winners® Hydrangeas at better garden centres across Europe. Always look for the recognisable white container and the diamond-shaped label.

WEBSITE

Visit our website **www.provenwinners.eu** to find a retailer nearby and to discover our broad range of Proven Winners® plants. Besides our wonderful Hydrangea collection, we offer many other unique and innovative varieties.

WEBSHOP

You can now order Proven Winners® online through our webshop: **www.provenwinnersplants.com**. The webshop is currently active in 4 countries Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Other countries will be added but please feel free to contact us in case you live outside these countries in the meantime.

 **pw_garden_plants**

 **Proven Winners Europe shrubs**



Hydrangea arborescens Strong Annabelle® (Abetwo)

*A better garden starts
with a better plant*

