



# OGDEN'S DESIGN & PLANTINGS, INC.

WWW.OGDENS.COM

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## PANICLE HYDRANGEAS

### Design & Installation:

- Natural Gardens
- Japanese Gardens
- Bed Maintenance
- Therapeutic Gardens
- Paths & Patios
- Stone & Brickwork
- Specialty Gardens
- Seasonal Color & Interest

### July To-Do List:

- Apply summer mulch to rose beds and flower borders
- Purchase spring flowering bulbs
- Deadhead annuals and perennials
- Prune climbing roses
- Prune ornamental and non-flowering evergreens
- Check irrigation systems
- Divides and transplant perennials

### Ogdenwords:

**Panicle:** A flower head with several branches.

**Sterile:** Unfruitful, barren, not producing fruit, seeds or spores. Many hybrid plants are sterile.

**Fertile:** Capable of germinating; stamens carrying ripe pollen, flowers with receptive pistils or fruits containing seeds.

This is the time of year when we see hydrangeas everywhere. Some are blue, some pink, purple, white or chartreuse. As well as color, the size of the hydrangea and the type of the flower head can be different too. All these things can be confusing for the gardener who wants to have hydrangeas in the garden but doesn't know which kind to choose.

One of our favorites is *Hydrangea paniculata*, also known as panicle hydrangea or Pee Gee hydrangea. It flowers on new wood and blooms late summer. This type of hydrangea can be grown as a shrub or a small single or multi-stemmed tree (growing up to 24 feet tall) and tends to be covered in large, showy white flowers in August and September. Trees are usually grafted. The flowers on *Hydrangea paniculata* are known as panicles (due to their cone shape and hence, where the name of the plant comes from) and are comprised of both sterile and fertile flowers.

*Hydrangea paniculata* was introduced from Japan and southeast China in the late 1800s. They can be pruned early spring, to control shape and size, since they flower on new wood. They are hardier than many hydrangeas and do well on Long Island. They tolerate many soil conditions but do prefer it to be well-drained and ideally need several hours of sun to perform at their best.

Probably the best known of all panicle hydrangeas is *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora' which is known as Pee Gee hydrangea (from the initials of the name). Really old shrubs of this plant have been found on Long Island to be as tall as

fifteen or twenty feet. It seems that over time people have begun to use the name Pee Gee hydrangea as a nickname for all types of *Hydrangea paniculata* even though originally it was only this one type that was truly a Pee Gee hydrangea.

'Grandiflora' does well in a sheltered spot preventing the flower-laden branches from breaking in the wind. It blooms with huge conical-shaped heads of sterile white florets which can last close to a month and turn pink and then brown with age.



Other varieties include: 'Dharuma' which blooms in early June and is very compact; 'Limelight' named for its very large profuse bright lime-green flowers; 'Tardiva' which extends the flowering season into September - and as flowers age and dry on the plant can remain interesting through November; and

'Praecox' (meaning early) which flowers earlier in the summer, June into July. Newer varieties include: 'Little Lamb' (a very dwarf compact plant growing 3 to 4 feet with tiny white flowers; 'Little Lime', a smaller form of 'Limelight' growing to 5 feet; and 'Pinky Winky' which turns pink rather quickly if you want to add a little color to your garden. Just remember that *Hydrangea paniculata* is not affected by soil pH. You can't turn a white flower into a color, and as it ages it will always turn pick or mauve and not blue.

If you want to know which variety of hydrangeas to plant in your garden please contact us at 631-473-5064 to help create your hydrangea garden. We will be happy to assist you in your design and planting needs.

## Hydrangea Gardens

Call us to create YOUR own Hydrangea garden today!

Call (631) 473-5064 or email [sales@ogdens.com](mailto:sales@ogdens.com)