

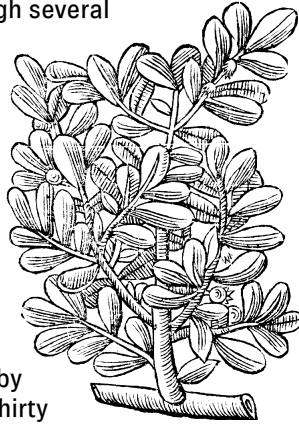
# Shrubs: Boxwood Bonsai

All Boxwoods are excellent Bonsai trees. Their slow growth allows the development of intricate branches, gnarled bark and very dwarf leaves. They are also highly adaptable to and may be grown outdoors for three seasons or indoors the year round.

## *Watering*

Proper watering is critical. Never allow the soil to become bone dry, nor keep it constantly wet. Feel the soil every day. If the surface is moist, do not water. If the surface is dry, soak the plant thoroughly. When your Bonsai is displayed outdoors water gently from above until the pot is saturated, the water draining through several times. In the winter when surface watering is messy, immerse the plant in a tray of water that comes one-third to half way up the pot. Water will enter through the drain holes, soaking the soil. The length of time required varies by pot size but usually thirty minutes is sufficient. Water again when the soil is almost dry. The basic rule is: NEVER LET THE TREE DRY OUT COMPLETELY.

We also recommend touching your plant regularly. With experience you'll know the proper 'feel' of your Boxwood.



## *Light*

Though Boxwoods grow very well in full sun they adapt to strong indirect light. Many Bonsai enthusiasts consider Boxwoods the ideal tree for northern or shady windows, locations where few others thrive.

## *Indoor/Outdoor*

Boxwoods may be grown indoors all year or outside from May through October. The strong light, gentle winds and rains will strengthen any tree, so we encourage you, if possible, to keep it outside for the summer.

## *Fertilizing*

The object of Bonsai fertilization is a slow, steady response, as opposed to rapid, lush growth, during the natural growing season. Boxwoods, therefore, respond to light, frequent fertilizing every 2 weeks from March

through October. Slow-release pellets, such as Fertilome Gardener's Special, are slowly broken down by soil microorganisms. Scattered or gently pushed into the soil at the rate of one per square inch of soil surface, they can supply general fertilizer requirements for up to a year. But don't neglect direct soil feeding with an organic fertilizer, fish emulsion for instance, at half the directed rate about every other week. Organic fertilizers do not allow the buildup of damaging soluble salts in the soil and supply virtually all the minerals the plant requires for strong growth. We also see a good response by misting our Boxwoods with a soluble fertilizer at quarter to half strength each week. If your Boxwood is indoors for the winter fertilize at the half rate once a month.

## *Pest & Disease Prevention*

Boxwoods are generally pest free but you should regularly pick out any dead leaves and wash down the foliage.

## *Repotting & Styling*

Your Boxwood Bonsai will need to be root pruned and repotted every two or three years. Occasional trimming, and perhaps wiring, is also necessary to keep your specimen looking good. We can recommend a number of excellent books that will help you in the artistry and detail of Bonsai.





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# growing guide

## Shrubs: Climbing Hydrangea The world's best clinging vine

When considering a vine one of the questions you'll ask is, "How tall will it get?" In the case of a Climbing Hydrangea the answer is, "Probably taller than your support." Though 80' is not uncommon for an old specimen clambering its way up a majestic tree, the reasonably attainable unpruned size in a landscape situation is about 40'.

Climbing Hydrangea, native to Japan, Korea, the east Himalayas and in central China, is the only vining member of the large Hydrangea group. In its natural habitat it thrives in woods, mixed forests and mountain ravines, not only climbing up trees but scrambling over rocks and hillocks to form a dense, mounded ground cover. It's not a newcomer to American gardens; Thomas Hogg introduced it into the United States in 1865.

Botanists divide the two species of Climbing Hydrangea into two subspecies. There is *Hydrangea anomala ssp. anomala* from the Asiatic mainland and *Hydrangea anomala ssp. petiolaris*, native to Japan and Taiwan. The difference is important; we want the latter in our Illinois gardens because it is hardier and more vigorous than its cousin.

Incidentally some believe that Hydrangea derives from two Greek words; *'hydor'* meaning water, and *'angeon'*, a vessel for storing dry or liquid things. It's supposed to have something to do with the shape of the seed pod.

The alternate explanation says, "Yes, the ancients named these plants for the shape of the seed pod but it actually refers to the Hydra, the mythical monster with many snake-like heads." And it does.

### A 4-season plant

In early spring the rounded, bright, glossy green leaves emerge, remaining pest and disease free all summer and fall. In early summer the creamy white, slightly fragrant flowers cover the plant for several weeks. It's an especially gorgeous display because these flat 6-10" wide flower clusters are presented well away from the main stem. In mature specimens they may extend out three feet, giving the plant a dramatic

three-dimensional appearance.

The fall color is often yellow and though it doesn't last too long, that's fine because leaf drop exposes the texture of the cinnamon-colored, exfoliating bark and the layered branching habit, an attractive combination during wintertime.

### Growing it

This is a true climbing vine, clinging, like ivy, by producing non-damaging aerial roots, but they will not appear unless the plant is near or against a support of some kind.

And if you don't have a support? Then get creative. Planted on a bank Climbing Hydrangea becomes a dense ground cover. Try it as a free standing plant or allowed to scramble over and hide a stump. It does well in shade or full sun in any organically enriched garden soil.

Though most descriptions say Climbing Hydrangea is "slow to establish" that is not necessarily true. Planted with lots of organic matter and not allowed to dry out during the first summer in its new home, it actually establishes itself quickly. From then on it is exceptionally carefree, requiring only an occasional pruning if overgrowing its space. That is not likely however, it's so striking all year that you'll probably end up moving something else to let your Climbing Hydrangea romp. Donald Wyman, former director of the Arnold Arboretum in Boston left no room for discussion when he said, "There is no better clinging vine."



Hoerr Nursery  
8020 N. Shade Tree Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309/691-4561  
FAX 309/691-1834



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# growing guide

## Shrubs: How to Choose

When discussing the various shrub options that perform well in a Peoria landscape, frequently a Hoerr Nursery customer will ask, "Which one do **you** like?"

Since we grow so many of them ourselves, we tend to like them all. But the best advice is *not* to go by what *we* like, but to select a shrub based on what **YOU** like, and one that will work well in the soil and light conditions you have in mind.

Some considerations to guide your decisions may include:

- Flowering or not
- Evergreen or deciduous
- Disease-resistant or requiring more attention
- Fast growing or not
- Hedge/privacy possibility or more open structure
- Winter interest or spring or summer highlight
- Sun or shade
- Height or width. For example a Smokebush (such as *Cotinus coggygria* "Royal Purple") can reach up to 15' and some compact forsythias are only 4' high but may reach to 12' in width.
- Unusual color, such as the dramatic winter color of the Redtwig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal') or the WOW visual impact, of a shrub such as the Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Cortorta')

Here are some excellent choices for flowering shrubs for foundations, borders, perennial beds or even as lawn specimens (meaning a focal point of your landscape): *Be sure to talk with a Hoerr Nursery expert to select one that will exceed your expectations!*

'Afterglow', 'Red Sprite'  
'Alice', 'Sike's Dwarf' & 'Snow Queen'  
Oakleaf Hydrangea; many of the hydrangeas are exceptional.

'Arnold Promise', Common & Vernal  
Witchhazel  
'Erie' & 'Judd' Viburnum  
'Henry's Garnet' & 'Little Henry'  
Sweetspire  
'Golden Glory' Corneliancherry Dogwood  
'Sixteen Candles' & 'Ruby Spice'  
Summersweet Clethra  
'Crimson Pygmy' Barberry 'Mt Airy'  
Fothergilla  
'Moonshadow' Euonymus

For some suggestions on disease resistant varieties, there are hundreds of ideas. You may consider many varieties of roses such as shrub roses; some of the newer very popular varieties of boxwood, or you may consider the bottlebrush buckeye.

We sell shrubs as: balled and burlapped (B&B), container-grown, or containerized. Balled and burlapped shrubs we have grown ourselves. Generally, you can plant shrubs that you buy from us, anytime the ground is not frozen.

As you are planning on your shrub purchase and placement, consider the mature size of the shrub. You will want to allow enough space from the foundation of your home, or enough space in your perennial garden to offer a roomy area for the mature size for each shrub you selected.

Bear in mind though that often the new or more exotic varieties may sell out, so it is best to purchase your shrubs as soon as they are available and close to when you will be able to plan them.

Please visit Hoerr Nursery soon to let us help you select a collection of shrubs that will work well in your garden.





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# growing guide

## Shrubs: How to Plant

### Digging a Hole

It's essential to dig the best hole for your valuable new shrub.

- Dig a hole that is as deep, and twice as wide as the container the shrub is in.
- Mix in organic matter (peat, humus, mushroom compost, garden compost, or manure) with your native soil until you obtain a 50-50 mix.
  - If the plant is in a plastic container, gently but firmly grasp it at the soil line and remove from the container.
  - If the plant is in a peat pot or other plantable container, cut or tear off the lip around the top and score down the sides in two or three places.
  - If the plant is balled and burlapped, it is not necessary to remove the burlap. Instead position the plant in the hole, level it, and backfill a bit to stabilize it. Cut the strings, remove the nails, and scrunch the burlap down around the ball with your hands or a shovel. The burlap will rot and the roots will grow through it. Make sure none of the burlap is left exposed to the air.
  - If the plant is in a wire basket, simply bend the top "ears" of the basket back flush with root ball, and plant as normal.
- Don't pack the soil after filling in the hole.
- Use the remaining soil to form a shallow bowl around the perimeter of the hole and fill the basin with plain water.

### Fertilizing

Apply a fertilizer, like **Ferti-lome Root Stimulator**, to promote leaf growth and flower development. Dilute **Ferti-lome Root Stimulator** at 3½ tablespoons per gallon of water. Apply at planting and two more times at ten day intervals. Always water it in well. Use 1 to 2 gallons for 4-foot tall plants and 2 to 3 gallons for 24" or greater diameter root balls.

In your shrub's second year, apply a granular fertilizer such as **Ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Food** in late winter or early spring. Follow the directions on the package and water well after application.

### Mulching

Apply a mulch to conserve moisture, maintain an even soil temperature, and reduce weeds. Use an organic mulch such as cypress, cedar, or shredded hardwood bark. Maintain the mulch layer at 2" to 3" deep. Decorative rock mulches may also be used, with the exception of CA6, a road building gravel. Do not mulch up to the bark of the plant. Leaving an open space helps deter burrowing rodents from damaging the plant's bark.

### Watering

More plants die from too much water than from too little. If you have heavy clay soil, less frequent watering is required. By contrast loose, sandy soil drains readily and more water may be necessary to ensure plant establishment. Observe your plants. If the leaves wilt and respond to water, water more often. If wilt occurs and/or the leaves turn lighter green to yellow and do not recover after watering, then you are overwatering. Water less and let the soil dry.

### Animal Control

To protect your plant from rabbit or deer damage, use **Liquid Fence**. This product won't hurt the animals, but will leave a bad taste in their mouths.

### Pruning

Newly planted trees and shrubs generally require no pruning; the plant needs all the reserves in its branches to establish quickly in your landscape. Of course, broken or damaged limbs should be removed and minor shaping is appropriate. The ideal pruning time varies with the plant. Avoid pruning from August through mid-October. Late summer pruning can induce new growth that won't have time to harden off before winter.

But the ideal time to prune flowering shrubs is after the blooms are gone. Prune spring flowering shrubs such as Forsythia, Flowering Almond Viburnum, etc., after the spring show. Prune summer flowering shrubs such as the Dwarf Pink Spirea group, Potentilla, Rose of Sharon, or

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8020 N. Shade Tree Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309/691-4561  
FAX309/691-1834



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# growing guide

## SHRUBS. *Hydrangea* A Favorite of Gardeners

**Everyone is familiar with Hydrangeas.** The first ones were introduced into American gardens in 1736 and they've been one of the most popular group of flowering shrubs ever since. That popularity continues unabated today as American gardening trends go "retro."

Hydrangeas are easy to grow. And, they can bloom profusely from early spring to late autumn; depending on the cultivar, sometimes with huge colorful blooms. The blooms are arranged in panicles or corymbs -- which is the botanical description of the branching structure to create the large globes of many, many flowers that create the hydrangea "mophead" flower.



No plant could remain so popular for so long if it weren't spectacular and easy.

It is a huge genus with about 75 species with some varieties, such as macrophylla, having as many as 600 named cultivars!

So, you begin to see that there is a huge array of hydrangeas to choose from. Some hydrangeas are responsive to changes in the pH of the soil and will reflect that chemistry in the color of the flower heads. Some hydrangeas flower only on "old wood" and some only on "new wood," so please understand what you want and what you are purchasing before you leave the nursery.

Here is some information on one of the most popular types of hydrangea. Additional information is available on other **Growing Guides** from Hoerr Nursery

***Hydrangea arborescens***, Smooth hydrangea is a deciduous shrub which typically occurs on wooded hillsides, ravines, along streams or riverbeds and

at the base of bluffs. In the wild, this shrub has a rounded shape and may reach 10' in height. When grown in landscapes, it is often cut back in late winter, but can then grow 3-5' in the next growing season.

Smooth Hydrangea, is hardy in our area and is typically adaptable to a wide range of soil and light conditions. A key consideration is that it produces summer flowers on new wood. That is why it is often pruned aggressively to generate more NEW wood for blooms. (Also to avoid "legginess" and wood that bends so far that it snaps.)

Those attributes make it popular (It's been a mainstay in American gardens for over 250 years!) and very easy to grow.

### ***Growing it***

Treat Smooth Hydrangea as an herbaceous perennial in our area. Cut it to the ground in the fall or early spring. Plant it in a rich, well-drained soil with some light to medium shade from the afternoon sun to prevent leaf scorch. It can tolerate full sun if it gets extra water during dry spells to keep from looking crispy by late July.

When growth begins in the spring it's a good idea to provide a strong support. The unbranched stems are usually weak and the weight of the flowers bend them to the ground. Not attractive and impossible to mow around.

### ***Annabelle***

The most popular and familiar cultivar and the one we offer is 'Annabelle'. She reaches 3 to 4', in a wet year 6', tall and at least as wide. The 8 week flower show begins in July when the erect, one foot across flowers begin as light green turning pure white, later maturing to brown. As the white color fades, cut them off, remove the leaves and hang them to dry. They are wonderful in natural indoor arrangements.



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FAX 309/691-1834



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growing guide

# Shrubs: Oakleaf Hydrangea

*Hydrangea quercifolia*

*Ask anyone who is growing Oakleaf Hydrangea and they'll tell you the same: These are true 4-season Hydrangeas, much like the Climbing Hydrangea.*

In the spring the fuzzy buds open to huge, up to 1' long, 8" wide, oak-shaped leaves that are dark green above, whitish underneath. Breezy summer days offer an eye-catching show!

In late June into July the pure-white, pyramid flower clusters are held upright on the strong stems. The flowers gradually fade to brown and are ideal for cutting, and drying for arrangements. As fall approaches the leaves slowly begin to turn into a spectacular dark burgundy-red, peaking around Thanksgiving. After the leaves drop, the handsome exfoliating rich brown bark is revealed, a real standout in the gray winter landscape.

Cultivating the best Oakleaf Hydrangeas requires a little soil and

location planning. Plant it in moist soil, rich with organic matter, where it receives shade in the afternoon. Full afternoon sun can cause foliar burn by midsummer if not enough moisture is available.

Most Oakleaf Hydrangeas are somewhat slow growing so pruning is rarely needed. Since flower buds are produced on old wood, always prune immediately after the current season's flower color begins to fade.

Like all Hydrangeas these are very trouble free. But, they are one of the hardest plants to grow successfully in a container. When you see them in the nursery they often have a benign purplish leaf spot that is really kind of ugly. Once in the ground though you'll never see it again.

New cultivars are appearing a fast clip; we currently offer three of the best.



Name	Flower Size	Plant Size	Notes
Alice	8-12"	12' by 12'	A new vigorous cultivar. Burgundy-red fall color flowers age to rose-pink
Sike's Dwarf	6-8" long	4' tall & wide	A new much needed smaller variety
Snow Queen	6-8"	6-10' tall & wide	Flowers age to pink-dark burgundy fall color, dense habit



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# growing guide

SHRUBS.

## Bigleaf Hydrangea

If you like plants that do their thing with little help from you then stay away from any of the hundreds of cultivars of this group of Hydrangeas. They'll grow, but if you see one in flower it was probably just purchased in bud or bloom and immediately planted. The second year all you'll see is mound of large, lustrous, fleshy, dark green leaves. But if you thrive on gardening challenges that promise outstanding rewards these shrubs are for you.

### Bigleaf Hydrangea

*Hydrangea macrophylla*, is native to Japan and is flower bud hardy only as far north as zone 6, through the southern third of Missouri and Illinois. Central Illinois is in zone 5. This is important because this group of Hydrangeas produce most of their flower buds for next year on wood being produced this year. If those stems and buds are subject to temperatures much below 0° the result is flower bud and stem kill to the crown.

### The types

The cultivars of Bigleaf Hydrangeas are divided into two groups. *Hortensias*, aka Mopheads, are the 'snowball' type with large, round clusters of sterile flowers. The *Lacecaps* have clusters with a flat outer ring of fertile showy flowers surrounding a center of non-showy sterile blooms. Sometimes there's a showy blossom or two scattered in the center ring.

### Growing it


Culture is the same for both groups: Plant them in a moist, well-drained soil liberally amended, up to 50%, with peat moss in **full sun or partial shade**.

Afternoon shade is best. A bright but protected area, a microclimate such as a courtyard for instance, is ideal. They also love water so don't let them dry down in the summer.

You **must** protect them during the winter to have any chance of flowers next year. In early to mid-November wrap the entire plant with burlap. Then put a circular wire frame around it and fill it with straw, firming it in. The frame needs to be large enough to offer at least a foot of straw on top of and around the stems. If it's a mild winter and you've done everything right and are lucky flowering will begin in mid-summer. Prune immediately after the flowers are no longer effective.

### The flower colors

You notice I haven't mentioned what color the flowers are. That's because it usually varies tremendously depending upon the pH of the soil and more luck if you have any to spare. A soil test to determine the current pH of your soil is a must if you are serious about growing Bigleaf Hydrangea. Blue flowers, the color everyone seems to want, are produced when the pH is 5.5 or lower, 6.5 and above produces pink flowers. Most of our soils are somewhere in between so, assuming the plants bloom at all, we end up with flowers that are rather sickly pinkish-bluish hue. You can manipulate the pH with peat, sulphur and aluminum sulfate somewhat but it may take a few years to get the color you want. Did I mention that these plants are a challenge?

If you're still determined to try a Bigleaf Hydrangea here are the cultivars we offer. 

\*Each year your hydrangea will develop new growth. If your variety "blooms on new wood" then it will be blooming each year on its new branches. Since different varieties of hydrangeas have different qualities, be careful when and how much you prune.

Name	Type	Flower Color	Size	Notes
<b>Endless Summer</b>	Mophead	Blue / Pink	2' to 4'	Blooms on new wood*
<b>Blushing Bride</b>	Mophead	White / Pink	3' to 5'	Blooms on new wood*
<b>Bits of Lace</b>	Lacecap	Pink	3' to 4'	Glossy dark green leaves
<b>Light of Day</b>	Lacecap	Blue / Pink	3' to 4'	Variegated foliage

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8020 N. Shade Tree Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61615  
309/691-4561  
FAX309/691-1834





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## Shrubs: Summersweet Clethra

Summersweet Clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*) is an American native, growing naturally from Maine to Florida. Though it's been a landscape plant since about 1731, new cultivars with attractive and descriptive names are catching the attention of gardeners.

The attention is well deserved because Clethra's attributes are many:

- The white to pink flowers are produced on 2 to 6" long racemes above the foliage.
- It flowers in July.
- The flower fragrance is very sweet.
- The bright glossy green foliage turns bright yellow in the autumn.
- It grows in full sun to full shade, but flowers and colors better in the fall in sunnier spots.
- It is very pest-free.

Plant Clethra in moist, acidic, rich soil liberally amended with organic matter. Mulch to about 2" deep with shredded hardwood, cedar, cypress or hardwood bark chips to reduce immediate weed pressure and maintain reasonably consistent moisture levels.

Cultivar	Size	Flowers
Ruby Spice	3 to 6' tall, 3 to 6' wide	Wide rose-colored buds open to deep pink flowers that do not fade
Sixteen Candles	Compact, rounded, 3 to 5' tall, 2 to 3' wide, noted for erect candle - like flower spikes	White





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## Shrubs: Panicle Hydrangea

All the cultivars of Panicle Hydrangea, *Hydrangea paniculata*, are robust, fast growing shrubs that are extremely hardy, adaptable and very easy to grow in full sun to partial shade. The pyramidal flowers arrive from late summer into the fall and are a fresh, bright welcome sight in a shady corner or the shrub border.

They all flower on new wood so prune in the fall or early spring.

As you look over the cultivars keep the ultimate size in mind. These are large shrubs and need room to fully develop. Unlike the Bigleaf Hydrangeas, flower color is not dependent upon the pH of the soil but they do share the same basic cultural requirements of all Hydrangeas:

A deep, rich, moist, well-drained site is best, and water adequately-- especially in the dog days of summer!



Name	Flower Color	Flower Size	Plant Size	Notes
<b>Grandiflora</b>	white, turning purplish-pink	6-8" long	can be 12-18" to 15' tall & wide	an old (since 1862), popular cultivar, also known as Pee Gee Hydrangea
<b>Pink Diamond</b>	rich pink	12" long, 8" wide	to 10' tall & wide	selected in 1997, colors best in good soil
<b>Pee Wee</b>	white, turning purplish-pink	6-8"	10' tall & wide	a smaller version of Pee Gee in mature size & flower size
<b>Tardiva</b>	white	6" about 8'	by 8'	an extremely popular cultivar that blooms in September
<b>Unique</b>	pure-white	to 16" long,	10" wide about 10' tall & wide	the huge flowers make this a real standout in the late summer-fall garden

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