

# Hydrangea quercifolia

## Oakleaf Hydrangea

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

Although **native** to the southeastern United States, Oakleaf Hydrangea can still be at home in many Mid-Atlantic landscapes unless deer are frequent visitors. In late spring, white flowers bloom in showy pyramidal panicles and turn shades of pink as they age in summer. Each shrub's large, oak-like leaves display a variety of brilliant colors in fall.



Shrub	Shrubs & Flowers* in June, July & November		
Height: 6–8 feet			
Spread: 6–8 feet			
Bloom Color: Green to white to shades of pink			
Characteristics			
Broad, upright, <a href="#">suckering</a> , <a href="#">deciduous</a> shrub			
<a href="#">Opposite</a> , large, ovate, oak-like, dark green leaves			
<a href="#">Inflorescences</a> (tiny fertile flowers covered by larger sterile florets) in pyramid-shaped <a href="#">panicles</a> bloom on old wood from May to July then sporadically to September; decorative florets turn from white to shades of pink then tan with age			
Spectacular fall foliage: orange & gold interspersed among red & purple leaves may <a href="#">persist</a> into winter			
Exfoliating, <a href="#">lenticellate</a> old <a href="#">stems</a> provide winter interest			
Attributes			
No serious pests (aphids and mites may visit on occasion) or diseases (susceptible to leaf blight and powdery mildew); <a href="#">deer</a> may browse canes/leaves			
Flowers striking in fresh and dried arrangements			
Attracts bees, wasps, syrphid flies, although not in large numbers; <a href="#">larval</a> host for ~10 lepidopterans			
Growing and Maintenance Tips			
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> :** Organically rich, well-drained	Excellent Replacement for		
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade	<a href="#">Buddleia davidii</a> - Butterfly Bush		
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> - Mophead Hydrangea		
Prune if needed directly after flowering; prune winter damaged stems early spring	<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i> - Jetbead		
Use as foundation plantings, as informal border/hedge, or as an accent or specimen plant	<div>*Bumble bee on fertile flowers. ** <a href="#">Mulch</a> in summer to retain soil moisture. ***Zone 5 plants may need sheltered location and mulch or burlap protection to prevent winter damage especially if shrubs are not well established.</div>		
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 5a***–9b			
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria			

Images by Mary Free, Fairlington Community Center and Glencarlyn Library Community & Green Spring Gardens