

Welcome!



Growing Hydrangeas

Public Workshop 5-11-19

Introduction to Today's Presentation

- Diversity of Hydrangea Species
- 5 Recommended Species for Napa
- Best Growing Locations and Conditions
- Watering, Fertilizing and Color Manipulations
- Pruning and Propagation
- Floral Uses
- Questions and Answers
- Closing Remarks

5 Recommended Species for Napa

1. *Hydrangea macrophylla* – Big Leaf hydrangea, Mophead or French hydrangea
H. macrophylla normalis – Lacecap hydrangea
2. *H. quercifolia* – Oakleaf hydrangea
3. *H. anomala* subspecies *petiolaris*- Climbing hydrangea
4. *H. paniculata* -- Pee Gee hydrangea
5. *H. arborescens* -- Annabelle hydrangea

Large Leaf Hydrangea

Characteristics



- ***Macrophylla*** means large- or long-leaved.
- Leaves are thick, shiny, coarsely toothed (serrated); 6 to 8 inches in length.
- Deciduous shrub – grows to about 7 ft tall by 8 ft broad.
- Flowers from early summer to late autumn.

Large Leaf Hydrangea Varieties

Macrophylla has a number of varieties. The species is divided into two groups:

1. *Hortensias (or “Mopheads”)* have globe-shaped flowers made up of large male flowers in pink, fuchsia, purple to blue.
2. *Normalis (or “Lacecaps”)* have flattened flower heads, with central, female blossoms ringed in larger, male blossoms.

H. macrophylla

Big Leaf, Hortensia, Mopheads

Endless Summer



All
Summer
Beauty



Endless Summer



Florist Hydrangeas



Ayesha



Buttons and Bows

H. macrophylla normalis

Lace-Cap

Lanarth White



Blue Wave

Morning Star



Old Wood Bloomers

- Macrophylla hortensia and normalis are both
- “**old wood**” bloomers.
- Flowers bloom on stems if they have been on the plant since the summer before the current season (stems are brown and woody).
- Blooms start developing in August and September after the plant finishes blooming.
- One exception is “ Endless Summer” and “All Summer Beauty” varieties; produces flowers on **BOTH old and new** wood.

Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Characteristics



'Snowflake'



Fall color

- Deciduous shrub – grows 6 to 7 ft tall and wide
- Panicle flowers change color
- Leaves are dark green and lobed like oak leaves
- Leaves change color in Fall
- Partial to full shade, slightly acidic soil

H. quercifolia

Oak Leaf Varietals

- Dwarf (4-6ft tall)
 - **Ruby Slippers**
 - **Munchkin**



'Ruby Slippers'

- Medium (8 ft tall)
 - **Snowflake** (double blossom)
 - **Snow Queen**



'Munchkin'

- Large (10-12 ft tall)
 - **Alice**
 - **Alison**
 - **Harmony** (double blossom)



'Alice'



'Snow Queen'



'Harmony'

Climbing Hydrangea

Characteristics



- From Russia and Japan
- Can climb to 60' by clinging aerial rootlets (not recommended on house walls)
- Shrubby or sprawling without support
- Mature plants develop short flowering branches with flat, 6-10 inch wide lace cap flowers

H. anomala petiolaris

Climbing Hydrangea



Pee Gee Hydrangea

Characteristics



- Deciduous shrub or small tree – grows 4 to 20 ft tall and 8 to 15 ft wide
- Cone shaped flower that fade
- Part sun
- Moist, well drained soil

H. paniculata

Pee Gee Varietals



Pee Gee hedge



**'Grandiflora'
tree form**



'Unique'



'Diamond Rouge'



'Limelight'

Smooth Leafed Hydrangea

Characteristics

- Native to New York, Iowa, south Florida and Louisiana
- Upright, dense growth to 10 feet tall and wide
- Oval, grayish green leaves, strong white flowers

H. arborens

Smooth leaved



Wild

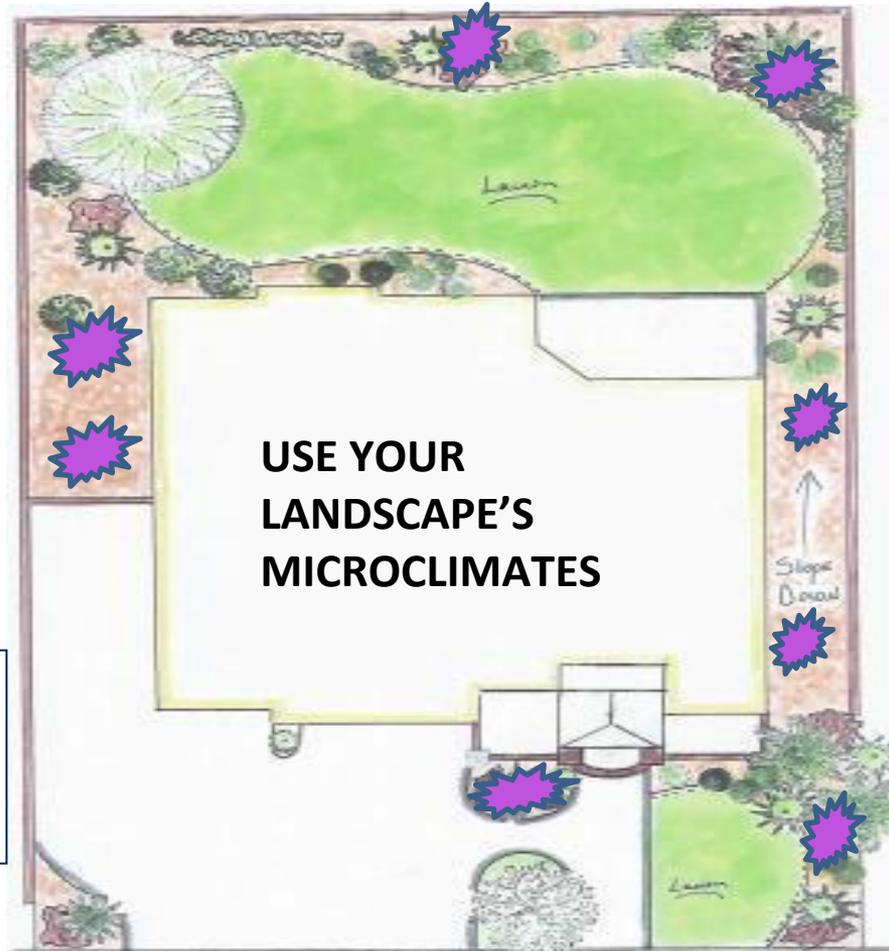


Annabelle



Invincibelle Spirit

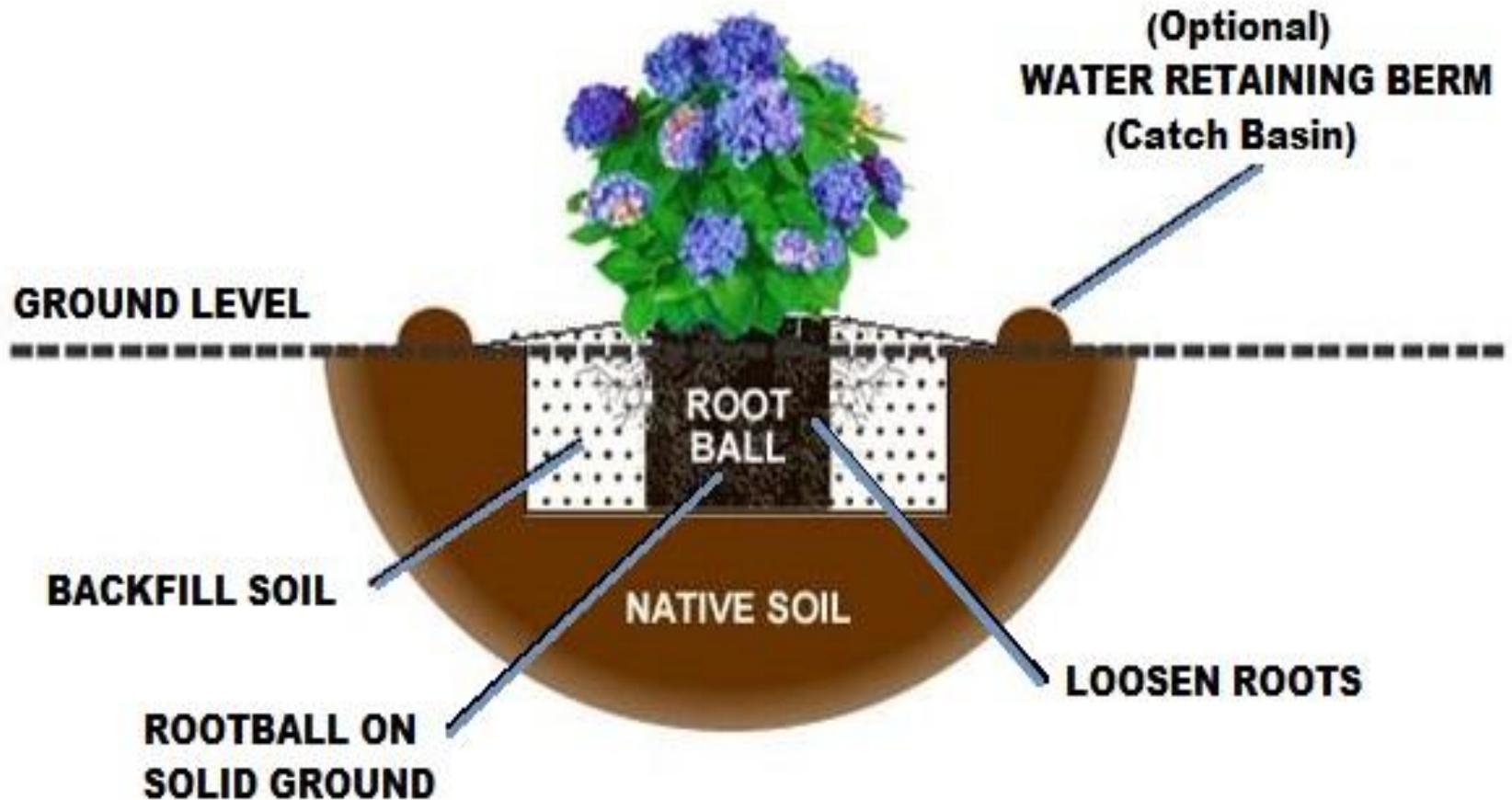
Site Selection




plant
locations

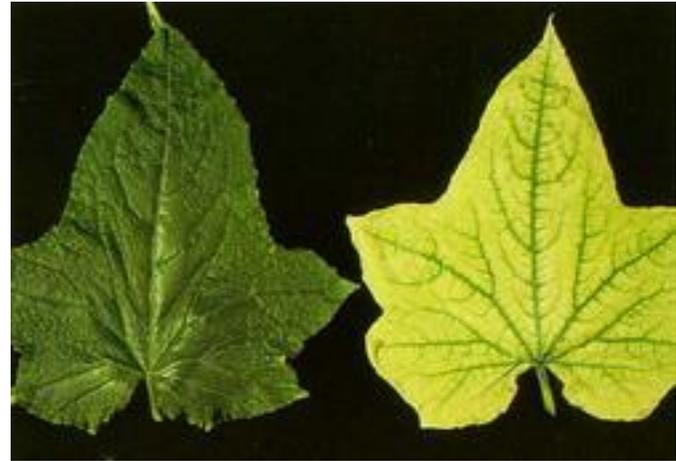
**MOST
HYDRANGEAS
WILL BLOOM AND
GROW WELL IN
MORNING SUN
AND AFTERNOON
SHADE**

How to Plant



Fertilizing

**-CHEMICAL
VS
-ORGANIC**



**IRON DEFICIENCY
INDICATED
NOT A FERTILIZATION
PROBLEM.
ADD IRON**

Changing Bloom Color



**ALKALINE
SOIL =
PINK**



**pH often
determines
blossom color not
fertilization.**



**ACID SOIL =
BLUE**



**MID RANGE
pH =PURPLE
(MUST BE
DEEP BLUE OR
DEEP PINK
BLOSSOMED)**



Pruning Hydrangeas

- ❑ Pruning maintains shape and health of plant
- ❑ Correct pruning produces flowers

Prune in Late Winter:

- Big Leaf Hydrangeas (MopHeads and Lacecaps)
- Climbing Hydrangeas

Big Leaf and Climbing hydrangeas form their buds in August and September on old wood. Prune after the flowers have past their prime, prune in Late Winter.

Prune in Early Spring:

- Oakleaf Hydrangeas- Quercifolia
- Pee Gee Hydrangeas- Paniculatas
- Smooth Leafed Hydrangeas- Arborescens

These hydrangeas form buds and bloom on current years growth. Prune in early Spring before the plant begins to come out of dormancy and new growth begins.

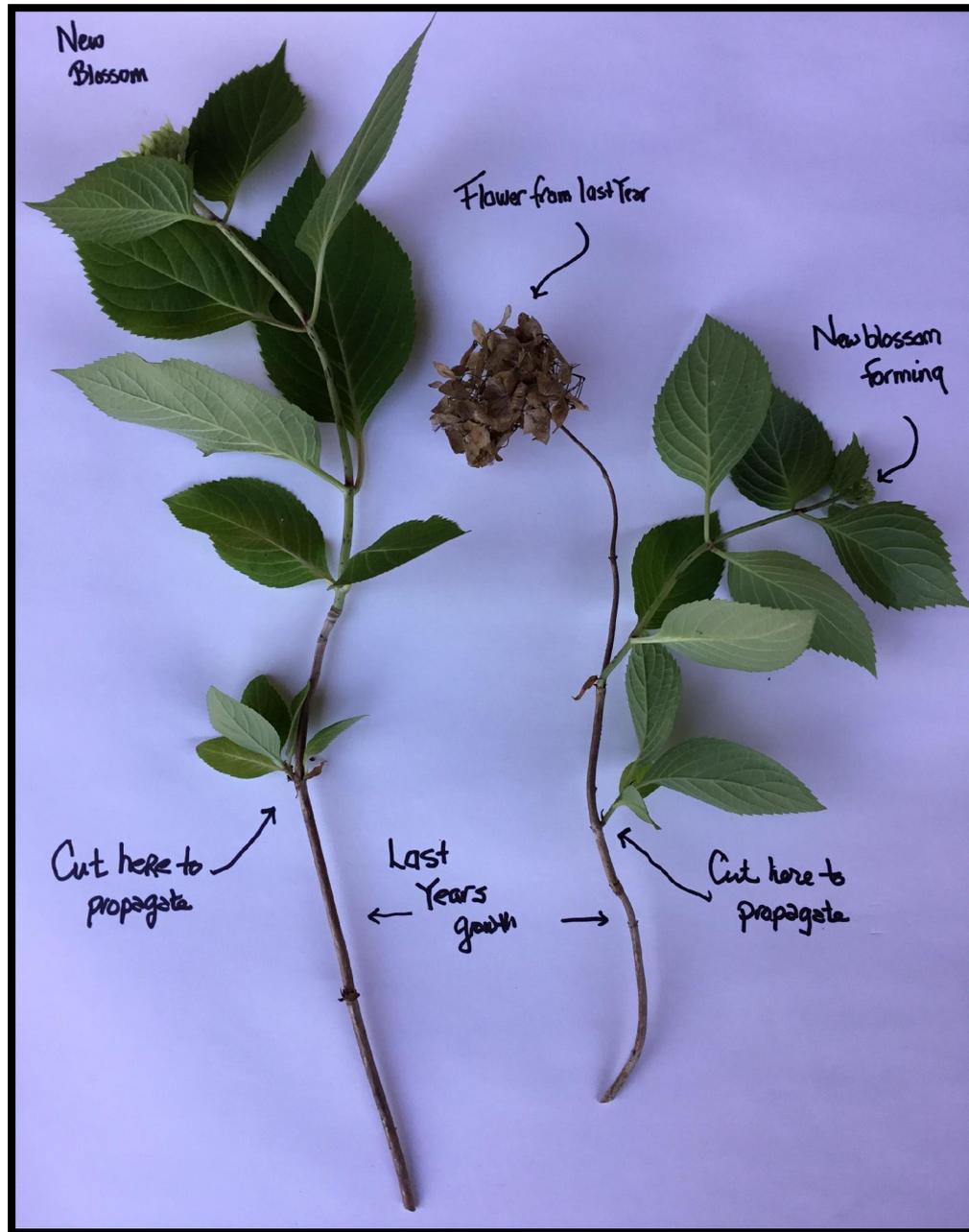
Pruning Hydrangeas

Where to Prune



Hydrangea macrophylla (March)

Where to Make the Cut



Propagating Hydrangeas

- Preparation:

- Take cuttings from vigorous, healthy plants.
- Use clean, sterilized and sharp knives or clippers.
- Take more cuttings than you need in case not all are successful.
- Take cuttings in the morning. Keep moist.
- Make cuttings from this year's growth.
- Prepare planting medium of $\frac{1}{2}$ part vermiculite and $\frac{1}{2}$ part sand or perlite.
- Use a one gallon plastic jug with its bottom cut out to cover the pot.
- Use a saucer for a water basin for the plastic jug.

Propagating with Softwood Cuttings

- Test by bending 6" stem back until you hear a clean snap
- Cut 6" from tip end on this year's growth; cut below lowest node at slant
- Remove all but 30% of the leaves. If leaves are large, cut in half from sides
- Plunge stem into a rooting compound about 2" deep and place it into pre-made hole into 4" pot. Stem should go into the medium 2-3" deep. Press medium around cutting.
- Place pot into half water-filled saucer
- Cover pot and saucer with plastic jug making sure leaves are not touching sides

Propagating with Softwood Cuttings

(continued)

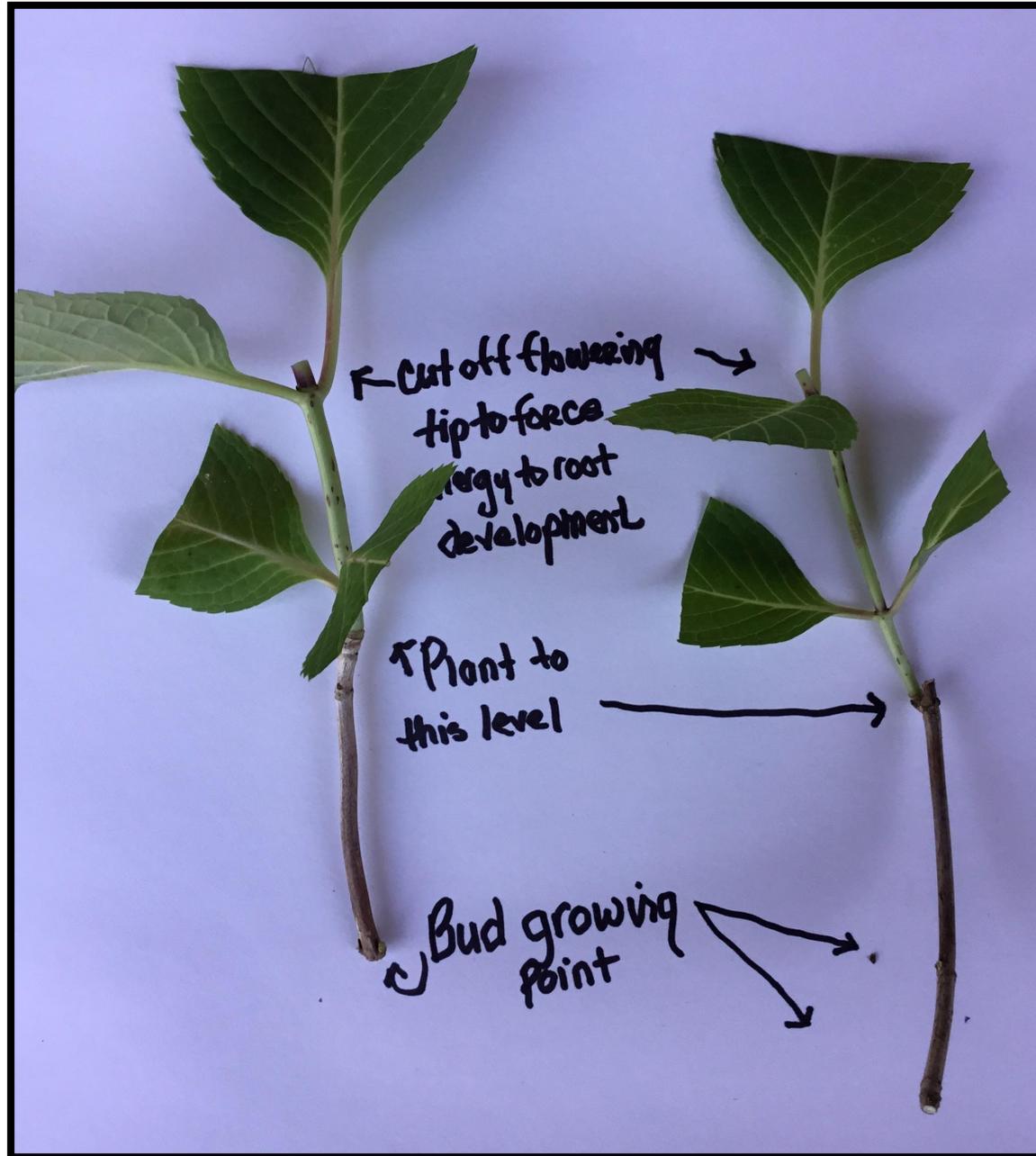
- Place pot in a protected spot and keep moist, spraying the cuttings with a fine mist of water if leaves appear dry. Ideal temperature is around 70°.
- Check for roots after 6-8 weeks. Gently tug on plant. If roots are ½ long, place in container with potting soil.
- Keep watered and protected from frost.
- Replant the following spring

This is the easiest and fastest method to root.

Propagating with Semi-Ripe Cuttings

- Take cuttings from current season's growth in July or August
- Characterized by soft growth at tip and harder growth 6-8" from tip
- Avoid developing flower buds. Focus cutting on root formation.
- Takes up to 2 months to root.
- Use same planting methods used with softwood cuttings.

Preparation for Rooting



Rooted Cutting



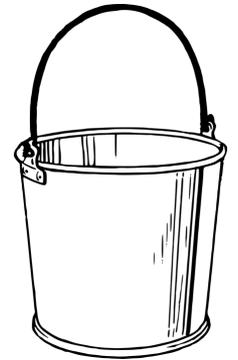
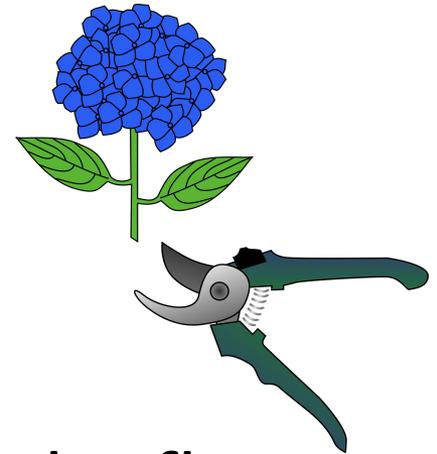
Floral Uses



USING HYDRANGEAS AS CUT OR DRIED FLOWERS

Harvesting the Flowers

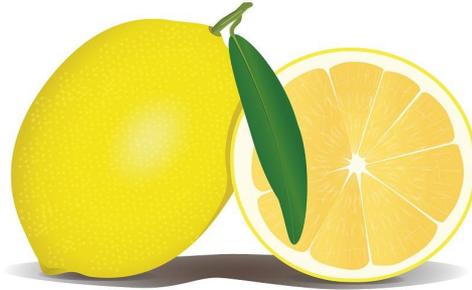
- Water shrubs the day before cutting
- Harvest when cool
- Cut hydrangeas when 90 percent of the florets are open
- Use clean bucket and sharp tools
- Put stems into the water immediately





Making the Arrangement Last

- Remove lower leaves
- Cut stems at deep angle, while stem is under water
- Place in a floral preservative
- Keep flowers in a cool, dark place until ready for use



Home Made Floral Preservative

- **Lemon juice mixture:** 1 tablespoon sugar + 1/4 teaspoon bleach+ 2 tablespoons lemon juice per quart of water
- **Soda mixture:** 1 part regular lemon-lime soda (no diet) with 3 parts warm water. Add 1/4 teaspoon of household bleach per quart of solution



Drying Hydrangeas

- Cut August through October
- Two Easy Methods
- Leave flowers on the plant to dry.
- Cut them just as they begin to lose their fresh color and complete drying in vase.
- Some varieties dry more easily than others

Questions?



REFERENCES

- Hydrangeas for American Gardens. Michael A. Dirr. Timber Press. 2004
- The New Sunset Western Garden Book (Ninth edition). Sunset Publishing Corporation. 2012
- The Plant Propagator's Bible. Miranda Smith. Rodale Inc. 2007

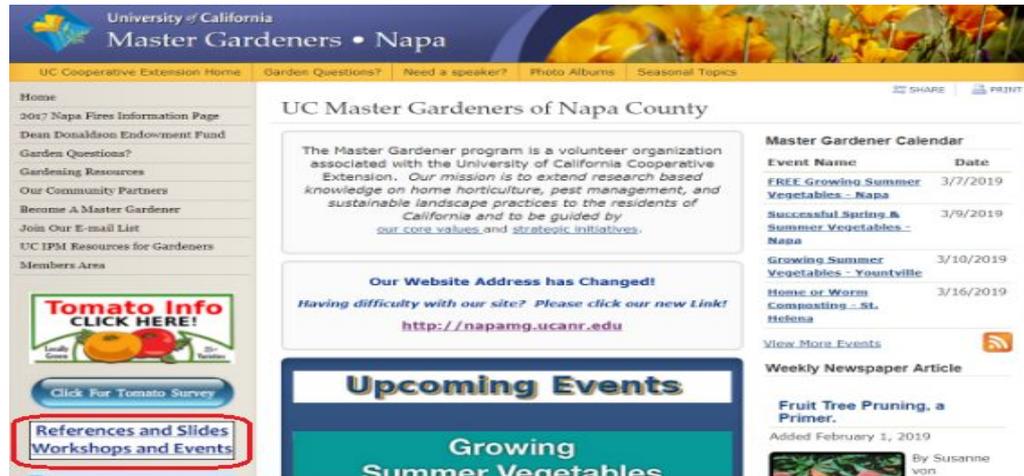


UCMG WEBSITE NAVIGATION

Go to UCMG website
<http://napamg.ucanr.edu/>

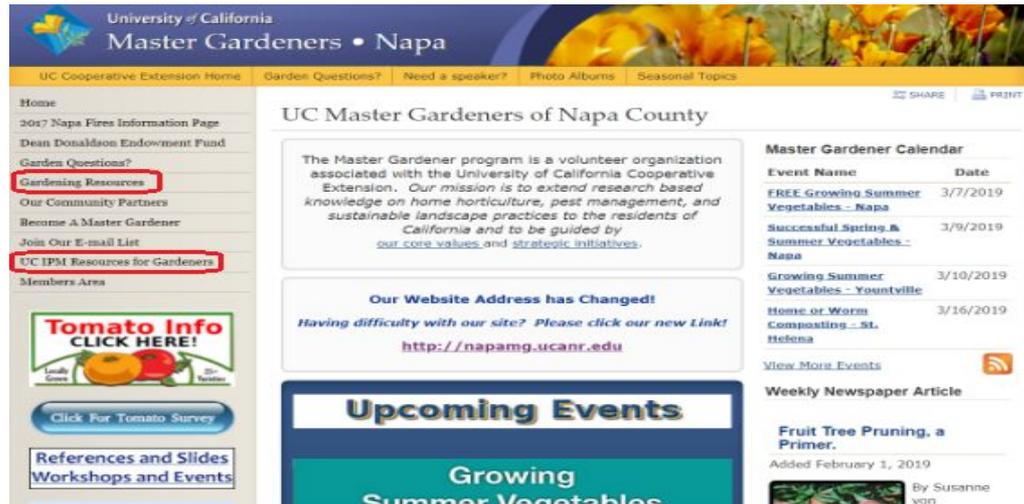
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