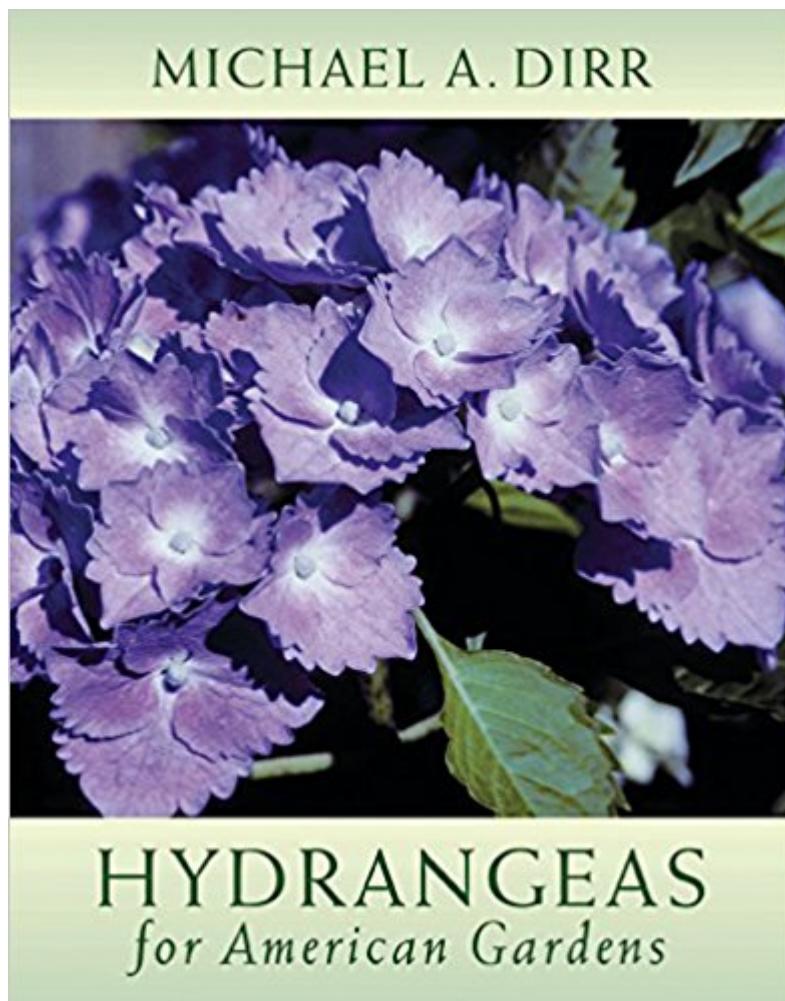


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# Hydrangeas For American Gardens



## Synopsis

The sheer number of choices among Hydrangea species, hybrids, and cultivated varieties can be overwhelming even for the most advanced gardeners. How to choose from among the hundreds of mopheads, climbers, lacecaps, and oakleafs, to name just a few? And how to care for hydrangeas in American gardens, when nearly all the books offering advice about them come from England and Europe? Respected plantsman Michael A. Dirr comes to the rescue in this refreshingly forthright and practical guide to these distinctive shrubs and climbers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hydrangea is a broad and varied genus, one "difficult to compress under a small umbrella." University of Georgia horticulture professor Dirr casts a wide net to provide comprehensive information about these versatile plants. That his passion for hydrangeas "knows no bounds" is clear from this enthusiastic combination of rigorous science, concise description and seasoned advice. The first chapter, "Characteristics, Taxonomy and Nomenclature," is the most academically oriented but brief and readable enough for the home gardener. Ten well-organized and liberally illustrated chapters follow, each devoted to a single species and its subspecies, ranging from the familiar and hugely popular *H.macrophylla* and *H. paniculata*, to relative rarities boasting flower buds that remind Dirr of "purple-brown cauliflowers" and are sometimes "quite large and Martian." Chapters on care and culture, propagation, pests and diseases, potpourri, and breeding offer a wealth of practical insights equally valuable to the casual green thumb and the professional

horticulturist, in every region of the country. Readers will learn the often-misunderstood chemistry behind pink/blue color shifts, how to dry and dye flower heads and where to register new cultivars. A first-rate listing of resources and nursery sources and 160 luscious color photos complete this definitive and irresistible tribute to one of America's favorite shrubs. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Mopheads and lacecaps are among the alluring types of hydrangeas that gardeners are enticed to purchase and plant, but not all hydrangeas thrive in the various U.S. climate zones. Dirr directs his authoritative voice and vast knowledge to helping the gardener understand the botany of hydrangea species, as well as the horticultural pluses and minuses of countless cultivated varieties. A bounty of color photographs documents mature climbers, shrubs with lavish foliage, and detailed views of gorgeous inflorescences, including snowballs, while the text covers a fascinating panoply of worthy specimens that embraces the rare and the commonplace. Informative yet entertaining, Dirr's descriptions warn of anemic green leaves and lack of cold hardiness or draw appreciative nods with superb frost tolerance and the frizzy effect of rose to mauve inflorescences with little white eyes. Chapters also provide information on lesser known hydrangeas, care and culture, propagation and pests, and future breeding, as Dirr's reigning expertise in the realm of trees and shrubs comes through once again. Alice JoyceCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

If you love hydrangeas, look no further because this is THE BOOK to buy. I have become something of a hydrangea enthusiast, but I have a lot to learn when it comes to plant care and varieties. After an exhaustive search for the right guide, I was discussing different hydrangea varieties with the owner of a local nursery. She pulled out her well worn copy of this book, and together we came up with a long list of varieties for me to add to my wish list. I ordered this book the minute I got home, and I haven't been disappointed. My favorite thing about this book is its varieties list in the back. This is incredibly helpful if you're looking for particular colors, types, etc. This book also discusses general care, soil pH, plant division, and pretty much anything else you'd want to know about hydrangeas.

Dr. Dirr's books are always great additions to the library: well presented, graphically excellent, and with good information. As I have said with others of his books, I personally consider them to be additions to rather than a foundation for a good library on gardening. These are books that I like to own and find them to be wonderful, appreciated gifts for my Master Gardening friends. Many of his

books have been written some time ago and I think that the publisher has changed. Dirr mentions the availability of a vast picture trove he took for this book. It does not appear to be available and he is not to be found, at least in my searches. If an extra book is in your budget, a book by Dirr will not disappoint.

Good book

Authoritative book on hydrangeas. The best.

Very comprehensive treatment of this group of plants.

Excellent information and the pictures were helpful.

If you are a hydrangea fanatic, this may be the book for you. I really wanted a book to help me care for and appreciate the newly planted hydrangeas in my yard.

The book described all the varieties of Hydrangeas. I enjoyed reading it. I would recommend to anyone. Thank you very much.

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