



Hydrangea paniculata Panicle Hydrangea¹

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INTRODUCTION

This low-branching, multiple-trunked tree or large shrub is fast-growing and capable of reaching 15 to 25 feet in height with a spread of 10 to 20 feet but is often seen at about 10 feet (Fig. 1). The dark green, deciduous leaves are three to six inches long and 1.5 to 3 inches wide, and fade only to a sickly yellow in fall before dropping. The spectacular summertime blooms appear in six to eight-inch-long panicles, the cream-colored flowers gradually fading over time to purplish-pink. The upright, spreading branches often bend down with the weight of the blooms, and the brown, faded blooms should be removed in late September to keep the tree from looking unkempt. If unpruned some people object to the pinkish brown fruits and old flowers which hang on to the tree during the winter. Pruning also is suggested to keep the plant to a consistent, neat shape.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Hydrangea paniculata*

Pronunciation: high-DRAN-jee-uh
pan-ick-yoo-LAY-tuh

Common name(s): Panicle Hydrangea

Family: *Hydrangeaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; hedge; near a deck or patio; screen; trainable as a standard; specimen; no proven urban tolerance

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

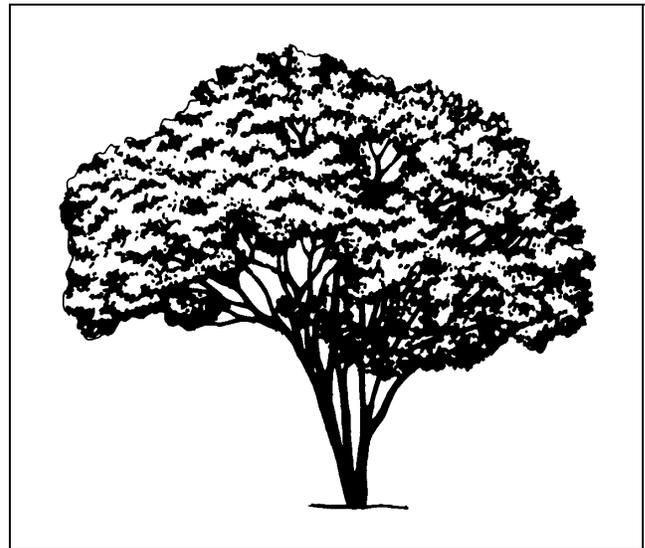


Figure 1. Mature Panicle Hydrangea.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 10 to 20 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: vase shape

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: medium

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite; whorled (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval); ovate
Leaf venation: bowed; banchidodrome; pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches; 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: yellow
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristics: summer flowering; very showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated; oval
Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown; pink
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure

Breakage: susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break

Current year twig color: brown; gray

Current year twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

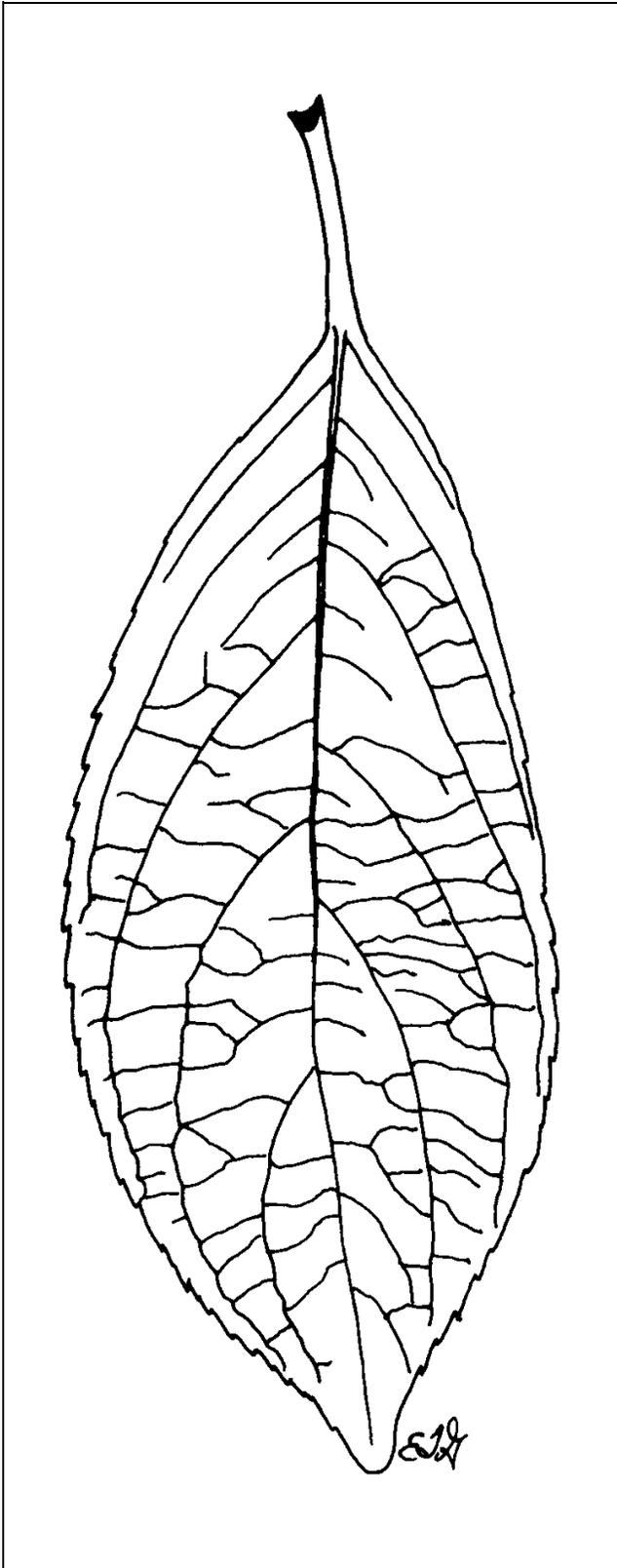


Figure 3. Foliage of Panicle Hydrangea.

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect tree health or aesthetics

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Panicle Hydrangea can be used in a shrub border as a large sized accent shrub. It may be best to locate it away from the house due to its large size and spreading habit. Lower branches can be pruned to clean up the bottom of the plant and make it grow into a multi-stemmed tree. Early training can create a single-stemmed small tree which would be well suited for planting as a specimen in a low ground cover or lawn area. They are also suited for planting in above-ground containers for displaying the nice flowers which develop in the summer.

Panicle Hydrangea should be grown in full sun or partial shade on well-drained, moist, loamy soil. Plants are fuller in the sun.

Propagation is by softwood cuttings which root quickly in a medium of sand and peat.

Pests

Aphids, rose chafer, oystershell scale, two-spotted mites, and nematodes.

Diseases

Bacterial wilt, bud blight, leaf spot, powdery mildew, and rust.

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem