



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Hydrangea and The Seven Dwarves.

Hydrangeas! You see them everywhere! Most people love them, some people fear them (not as much as Rhodies, but that's a different story), and I don't recall anyone that can't stand them. That being said, there have been all kinds of hybrids introduced over the past couple years, and it can be difficult to keep track of them. Even here at the nursery, we sometimes trip across a hydrangea that looks a bit different than what we expect it to be, which then results in us doing homework to figure out what this particular hybrid does, and how it differs from whatever sport it was created from.



Homework NEVER ends, kiddies...

As you know, Hydrangea can get to be a considerable size that can be difficult to control in a landscape if it's not maintained on a regular basis, and have the potential to completely overpower a bed which then could hinder growth of other material that may be present or block other focal point items. Fortunately, the wizards of the industry introduced hybrids that are considered to be dwarf versions of their parent plant, and they are VERY welcome additions!

Let's start with dwarf panicles. We all know and love Limelights and Quick Fire Hydrangea, but let's be honest... they can get **BIG!** Like 8-10' **BIG!** So, if you like the look but don't have that kind of space to work with,

consider the dwarf variations. The added bonus is that the names are easy to remember! **Little Lime Hydrangea** is the little brother to Limelight, reaching about 4' tall instead of the 8-10' size. Same leaf, same bloom time, half the size! Then there's **Little Quick Fire Hydrangea**, and you can probably guess who it's big brother is. Again, same leaf, same bloom time, same fragrance, same red stemming, and only reaches about 4' in height. Lastly, there's **Bobo Hydrangea**. I'm going to be a nerd on the description for a moment, so bear with me. How do you remember that it's a dwarf? Easy! Most of you have either read or saw the Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit books or movies. To me, Bobo sounds like a Hobbit name, and Hobbits were small. Bobo hydrangeas reach about 30" in height, that's about it! Kinda neat, eh?

continued...



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[*Return to Archive*](#)





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Here's a newer introduction to the Endless Summer series of Hydrangea that has caught a lot of attention: **Bloomstruck!** If you like Endless Summer, you'll like these. Bloomstruck reaches about 30" in height and spread as compared to its big brother that gets 3-4' in height and width, it's a rebloomer, it produces an abundance of blooms ("slightly" smaller in my opinion, but phenomenal!), and develops red stemming as the season progresses. These are DEFINITELY worth a try!



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[*Return to Archive*](#)

Finally, let's take a glance at Oakleaf Hydrangea. There are more than the three that I'm going to list, but then I would have to change the title of the article, and it wouldn't be as catchy. Marketing strategy, right?

The Oakleaf Hydrangea that most of us have known for decades has the potential to get quite large. In my time here in the industry, it seems that oakleaves were the test subjects in creating dwarf hybrids. **Sikes Dwarf and Munchkin Hydrangea** are two quick examples. Older Oakleaves can creep up to the 8' range, sometimes bigger, but Sikes Dwarf only gets around the 30"-3' range, while Munchkin lingers around 24", 30" if it's REALLY happy. The newest that we've finally gotten our mitts on are **Ruby Slippers Hydrangea**, which is quite similar in appearance to Munchkin, but plan on the 30" size, and it produces STUNNING, manly-pink flowers.

Fall is upon us, and there's still time to knock out all those jobs that you've accumulated over 2015 before the colder weather creeps in. And, of course, when the weather starts dropping more and more... for those of you that read my articles, you know what I'm going to say... stop in for a hot cup of coffee, share or listen to some of the daily CPC banter (entertainment is always free), and say HI!

Be safe out there!!

