



## Pruning hardy hydrangea

In this article I will discuss pruning *Hydrangea paniculata*, also known as Panicle, or Hardy Hydrangea. These plants should be pruned at least once per year to encourage new growth and flowers. This type of *Hydrangea* will only flower on the new wood, so don't skip this important step.



Personally, I always prune these in the late fall because I dislike the look of the dead flowers. Your client may want the "dried flower" look, so pruning them in early spring while still dormant is okay too. It is important to remember that a heavy snow can break these branches so beware.

You have several options when pruning. You can cut them back for a smaller plant, or hand prune them to shape them as you like for a taller plant. Either way is fine, it's just personal preference. I would suggest that you make your cuts on a diagonal for a healthy plant. Make sure your cuts are near the new growth. As with any plant, proper care and maintenance is required for long term viability.



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