



ADA STORE
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419-634-0351

Visit our **NEW** website at:
www.newleafgardencenter.com

KENTON STORE
927 E. Columbus, Rt. 67 by Shopping Plaza
419-675-2718

May hours for both Stores: M-F 9-6, Sat. 9-5, Sunday 12-4

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Hydrangeas Demystified



Bigleaf Hydrangea

A lot of what you know about Hydrangeas comes from past experience or from the ones your Grandma used to grow. She called them Snowball bushes due to the big, round white flower clusters. Today's hydrangeas can be white, pink, blue or a mixture of those colors. They grow from 2-3' tall or over 10' tall. Some grow in the shade while others like full sun. Over the past several years there have been many new varieties introduced into the market and there is a lot of confusion as to where they can grow, when they should be trimmed, how big they get and are they hard to grow.

So here's the low-down on these wonderful, versatile, flowering shrubs.

There are **6 main types of hydrangeas** commonly grown in North American gardens and they are all hardy in our area.

Bigleaf (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) – These include the commonly grown mophead and lacecap varieties. This plant does best in part shade to shade. Care should be taken when pruning these bushes as they mostly bloom on 'old wood' (stems that have been on the plant since the summer before the current season), but some bloom on both old and 'new wood' (the current season's growth). Generally, they are pruned in late summer, after blooming has ceased. You can prune weak stems to the ground and cut or deadhead spent flowers and stems to the last bud at any time. The variety we carry: **Bloomstruck** which blooms on old and new wood.

Panicle (*Hydrangea paniculate*) – These are also known as PeeGee or Panicle. Plant these in sun to part sun. These usually flower on new wood. Therefore, they are generally pruned in late winter or early spring just before summer blooming. They can be pruned in fall as well. This type of hydrangea can also be pruned into a tree form, as it exhibits an upright growth habit.

The varieties we carry: **Bobo, Limelight, Little Lime, Pinky Winky and Quick Fire.**

Smooth (*Hydrangea arborescens*) – These are also known as Snowball bushes. Plant these in sun to part sun. This hydrangea blooms on new wood so prune it in late winter / early spring.

Varieties we carry: **Invincibelle Ruby and Annabelle.**

Oakleaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) – This hydrangea gets its name from the oakleaf-shaped leaves. Plant these in sun to part shade. They are typically pruned in late winter to early spring. Their colorful fall foliage is oftentimes a welcomed sight in autumn. Many people also enjoy leaving the flower heads over winter for additional interest.

Varieties we carry: **Ruby Slippers and Snow Queen.**

Climbing (*Hydrangea petiolaris*) – Plant these in shade to part shade. This hydrangea often does not require pruning. This type blooms on old wood so it can be pruned in fall after blooming has ceased. Cut back shoots to the last healthy bud.

Variety we carry: **Petiolaris**

Mountain (*Hydrangea serrata*) - Mountain hydrangea is a small shrub from the mountains of Korea and Japan that is a very hardy reblooming hydrangea. Plant these in sun to part sun. Pruning is generally not needed, but the plant may be shaped immediately after the first bloom of the season. This shrub blooms on old and new wood. Variety we carry: **Tiny Tuff Stuff.**

Color – All hydrangeas undergo some color change as the flowers age, but only bigleaf and mountain hydrangeas can change their color in a predictable, controllable way. It is not solely the pH of the soil that is responsible for this change – it is actually the presence of aluminum in the soil.

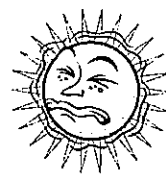
Certain varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas cannot change color. The white varieties of bigleaf hydrangeas will not change color.

In our area we have mainly alkaline soil and water. This causes the blooms to be pinker in color. If you want blue blooms you will need to add **Aluminum Sulfate**, which we carry at both stores, on a regular basis to make them blue. When applying, always follow package directions! Pennies, nails, aluminum foil or coffee grounds in the soil will not change the color!

Every home should have a hydrangea. Stop by and shop our selections and find one that fits a spot in your landscape so you can enjoy this beautiful plant!

Gardening Science

This has been a cold Spring, one of the coldest that I can remember! We are only at 114 GGD. Last year at this time we were at 340 GGD! The Forsythia is now just starting to bloom - about a month late.



Just remember the average frost-free date is May 15th! So be sure to wait and plant your tender plants after Mother's Day or be prepared to cover them! Trees, shrubs and perennials do not mind the cool spring and we are fully stocked and ready!



What's Bugging You?

By Laurie

Every Spring we have a culprit in our gardens that is rarely seen. They slither around at night and munch on our Hostas and other tender plants. They are **Slugs and Snails**. They feed at night and hide in cool dark places during the day. The Gray Garden Slug is usually 1" long and their plump slimy bodies can be light gray to brownish black. Slugs are snails without the shells. They overwinter as adults and lay their eggs in late spring in moist areas under dead leaves, rocks and mulch. The babies hatch and start to feed immediately. Slugs grow slowly and can have a life span of 1 - 5 years. Although they feed mostly on decaying material they will feed on tender foliage and fruits. They are serious pests on strawberries, vegetables, or anything that ripens close to the ground. **How do you deter them?** Have good spacing between plants to allow sun and good air circulation and clean up all debris in the fall where slugs may overwinter. Refrain from using excessive mulch and never use grass clippings as a mulch. Fall tilling of your garden will reduce the amount of debris where they overwinter. Trap them by creating a shelter where they hide by using boards or overturned flower pots, collect them and throw in the trash. Set up a "bar" with beer in a shallow buried container, all except top 1/2". The slugs will crawl in and cannot get out! Refill every few days. Abrasive material such as coffee grounds, crushed eggshells or diatomaceous earth (crushed sea shells, that we carry at both stores) work as a barrier since they will not crawl over anything course. **Never use salt. It is bad for the soil and does not work.** You can also use chemicals, such as **Bonide Slug Magic** which is a pellet with a bait and a killer, or **Bug & Slug Killer** which includes Spinosad as well as the bait in Slug Magic. This product is good for all kinds of soil insects, earwigs, cutworms, crickets and more. The best method is "all of the above". **Slug fun facts!** Slug slime is hard to remove from your hands because the slug mucus absorbs water so washing make it worse. Let the slime dry and rub off with your fingers or use a borax hand cleaner. Or you can see if it improves the condition of your skin! Slug slime is used in several cosmetics as a skin softener. So, you may have been "slimed" and never knew it!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

One of the most
delightful things about
a garden is the
anticipation it provides.

~ W.E. Johns ~

Garden To Do List

May



Garden: Average Frost Free date is May 15th!

Plant tomato and pepper plants and most other annuals when danger of frost has passed. Add gypsum to the garden to loosen clay soil.

Not picking asparagus? Plant some now for next year.

Perennials

Start a spray program for roses to prevent disease and insect damage. Use Bayer 2-In-One or Bayer All-In-One Rose and Flower, or organic Neem Oil.

Plant summer flowering bulbs such as Gladiolus and Cannas early May and Dahlias toward end of May.

Fertilize and deadhead your repeat blooming roses after the flowers fade to encourage a 2nd bloom.

Help your garden mums and asters maintain a compact form by pinching back by half after they are 6-8" tall.

Repeat this process again mid-July. Plant new mums now for better survival over winter.

Report houseplants that are pot bound and move them outdoors when nighttime temps stay above 60°.

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Annuals & Containers

Plant annual flowers and seeds of summer annuals after last average frost date May 15th.

Put fresh potting soil in containers as old soil has fewer nutrients and may contain harmful bacteria & fungi.

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Landscape

Deadhead rhododendron blooms to direct the plant's energy toward producing flower buds for next year.

Prune spring blooming trees & shrubs right after blooming before they start setting buds for next year.

Prune back any winter damage on trees and shrubs.

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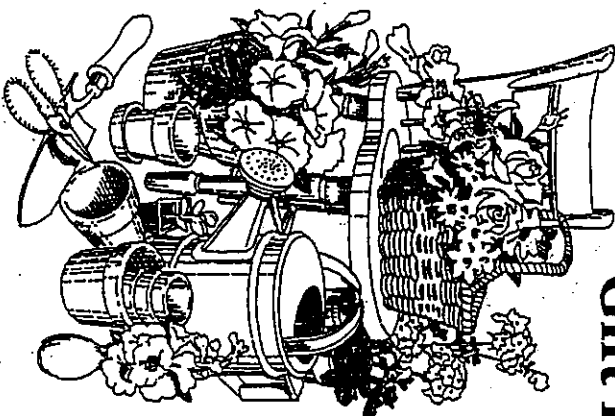
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Gift Ideas for

MOTHER'S DAY



- Combo Planters
- Hanging Baskets
- Potted Plants
- Fairy Garden & Terrarium Supplies
- Perennials & Herbs
- Rose Bushes
- Flowering Trees
- Flowering Shrubs
- Garden Art
- Garden Flags & Holders
- Gazing Globes & Stands
- Decorative Garden solar lights
- Wind chimes
- Pottery
- Shepherd Hooks
- Summer Bulbs
- Bird Baths
- Bird Feeders and Food
- Garden Benches and MORE!

Can't Decide? Buy your Mom a Gift Certificate!

WE CARRY A LARGE SELECTION OF

Trees - Evergreens - Shrubs

Plus everything you need for your lawn & garden!

- Ground Covers - Vines - Flowers - Perennials
- Fruit Trees and Fruit Plants
- Vegetable Plants & Seeds
- Patio Blocks - Decorative Stone
- Potting Soil, Peat Moss & Compost
- Top Soil & Mulch (bagged & bulk)
- Organic Gardening Supplies
- Garden Pond Supplies
- Trellis & Arbors
- Garden Tools



HOW IS YOUR 'CURB APPEAL'?

Call For A FREE Estimate!

The professionals at New Leaf not only design & install beautiful landscaping but can also help you maintain it!

Trimming, Bed Edging, Mulching
Shrub, Tree & Lawn Fertilization



REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES ON MEMORIAL DAY

- Cemetery Saddles & Vases
- Cemetery Wreaths
- Geraniums
- Bedding Plants
- Urns & Planters
- Silk Flower Bushes
- Memorial Stones & Flags
- Concrete Benches
- Decorative Solar Lights



We're OPEN Memorial Day 9:00 - 3:00