

Lacecap Hydrangea

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Variegata'

Bigleaf hydrangea, also known as French hydrangea, is the most widely grown species of Hydrangea. Lacecap hydrangeas have flat clusters of tiny, spidery flowers surrounded by a ring of prominent flowers. Gardeners have appreciation for french hydrangea because it flowers in shade, often produces blue flowers, and is considered an “heirloom” plant. The lacecap flowers develop from buds formed in the tips of the previous year stems (on old wood). Most French hydrangeas produce blue, purple or pink flowers, depending on cultivar and soil conditions. Soil acidity or alkalinity can affect french hydrangea flower color. The 'Variegata' variety has white leaf margins and blue or pink lacecap flowers. French hydrangea is fully cold hardy in Florida and plants rarely die back. Consequently, french hydrangea often reaches a mature size of 6 feet tall and wide, and it can grow as large as 12 feet tall and wide.

Type: perennial shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11

Uses: specimen; container or above-ground planter; accent

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 6 to 12 feet **Spread:** 6 to 12 feet

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: pests and diseases not commonly found unless hydrangea is stressed

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Photo: UF/ IFAS