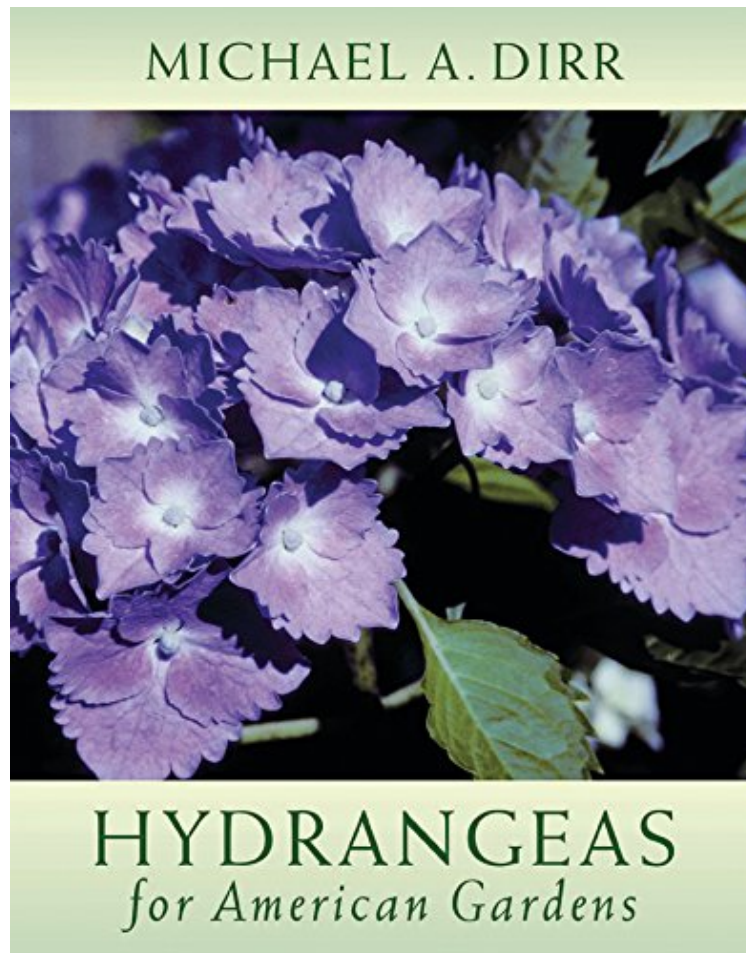


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Hydrangeas for American Gardens

Michael A. Dirr

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Michael A. Dirr : Hydrangeas for American Gardens before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hydrangeas for American Gardens:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buy it!By Miss PixieIf you love hydrangeas, look no further because this is THE BOOK to buy. I have become something of a hydrangea enthusiast, but I have a lot to learn when it comes to plant care and varieties. After an exhaustive search for the right guide, I was discussing different hydrangea varieties with the owner of a local nursery. She pulled out her well worn copy of this book, and together we came up with a long list of varieties for me to add to my wish list. I ordered this book the minute I got home, and I haven't been disappointed. My favorite thing about this book is its varieties list in the back. This is incredibly helpful if you're looking for particular colors, types, etc. This book also discusses general care, soil pH, plant division, and pretty much anything else you'd want to know about hydrangeas.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Michael CallaghanGood book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best.By Lynn PAuthoritative book on hydrangeas. The best.

The sheer number of choices among *Hydrangea* species, hybrids, and cultivated varieties can be overwhelming even for the most advanced gardeners. How to choose from among the hundreds of mopheads, climbers, lacecaps, and oakleaves, to name just a few? And how to care for hydrangeas in American gardens, when nearly all the books offering advice about them come from England and Europe? Respected plantsman Michael A. Dirr comes to the rescue in this refreshingly forthright and practical guide to these distinctive shrubs and climbers.

From Publishers Weekly *Hydrangea* is a broad and varied genus, one "difficult to compress under a small umbrella." University of Georgia horticulture professor Dirr casts a wide net to provide comprehensive information about these versatile plants. That his passion for hydrangeas "knows no bounds" is clear from this enthusiastic combination of rigorous science, concise description and seasoned advice. The first chapter, "Characteristics, Taxonomy and Nomenclature," is the most academically oriented but brief and readable enough for the home gardener. Ten well-organized and liberally illustrated chapters follow, each devoted to a single species and its subspecies, ranging from the familiar and hugely popular *H. macrophylla* and *H. paniculata*, to relative rarities boasting flower buds that remind Dirr of "purple-brown cauliflowers" and are sometimes "quite large and Martian." Chapters on care and culture, propagation, pests and diseases, potpourri, and breeding offer a wealth of practical insights equally valuable to the casual green thumb and the professional horticulturist, in every region of the country. Readers will learn the often-misunderstood chemistry behind pink/blue color shifts, how to dry and dye flower heads and where to register new cultivars. A first-rate listing of resources and nursery sources and 160 luscious color photos complete this definitive and irresistible tribute to one of America's favorite shrubs. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Mopheads and lacecaps are among the alluring types of hydrangeas that gardeners are enticed to purchase and plant, but not all hydrangeas thrive in the various U.S. climate zones. Dirr directs his authoritative voice and vast knowledge to helping the gardener understand the botany of *hydrangea* species, as well as the horticultural pluses and minuses of countless cultivated varieties. A bounty of color photographs documents mature climbers, shrubs with lavish foliage, and detailed views of gorgeous inflorescences, including snowballs, while the text covers a fascinating panoply of worthy specimens that embraces the rare and the commonplace. Informative yet entertaining, Dirr's descriptions warn of anemic green leaves and lack of cold hardiness or draw appreciative nods with superb frost tolerance and the frizzy effect of rose to mauve inflorescences with little white eyes. Chapters also provide information on lesser known hydrangeas, care and culture, propagation and pests, and future breeding, as Dirr's reigning expertise in the realm of trees and shrubs comes through once again. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

This is the book to have if you want the whole story about these beautiful plants. The Washington Post Dirr's reigning expertise in the realm of trees and shrubs comes through once again. Booklist Definitive and irresistible tribute to one of Americas favorite shrubs. Publishers Weekly Gardeners will find useful advice about which varieties will perform best in their part of the United States. Library Journal Top honors for talent-spotting go to horticulturalist Michael A. Dirr, author of the invaluable *Hydrangeas for American Gardens*. Martha Stewart Living Dirr and his overstated opinions are always a pleasure to read, and this book does not deviate far from those expectations. Pacific Horticulture For Dirr fans, there is no question that this book is a must-read. For those not yet exposed to his writing and photography, now is the time. People Places Plants Speaks with authority and candor, making the entire book both educational and entertaining. National Gardener This book is both entertaining and authoritative. HortIdeas *Hydrangeas for American Garden* totally seduced me. It is attractive enough to pick up, deep enough to take home, enthralling enough to take to bed, and by the morning light I wanted it to be mine forever. American Gardener The only up-to-date book on the subject. The Boston Globe