

Hydrangeas Then and Now: From Garden Staples to Genetic Game Changers

Michael A. Dirr, Mass NLA, 7-23-26

1-8. *Hydrangea macrophylla*- Legacy cultivars and the remontant revolution. Generale Vicomtesse de Vibraye (1909) has retired.

9-14. Remontancy paid dividends. Estimated 50 million Endless Summer® series have been sold.

15-16. ThinkPlants and Signature Hydrangeas. More *H. macrophylla* on the way. Royalties are down to pennies.

17-20. Heritage Museums and Gardens. Cape Cod Hydrangea Society. North American Hydrangea Test Garden.

21-26. New *H. macrophylla* introductions

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27-28. Major species and production trends.

29-45. *Hydrangea arborescens* has momentum. Significant improvements herald greater sales.

46-62. *Hydrangea paniculata* sales exceed those of *H. macrophylla*. Reasons: Adaptable (zone 3 to 8b), reliable, resilient, guaranteed to flower, range of sizes. Soon an exciting crayon box of flower colors.

63-70. *Hydrangea quercifolia*. Old timers to newcomers. Future is bright. Increased breeding emphasis on the species.

71-79. *Hydrangea serrata* and *H. macrophylla* hybrids have improved both. *H. serrata* a zone hardier than *H. macrophylla*.

80-85. Hydrangea breeding at Premier Introductions, Inc. If it was easy, everybody would have bred a foolproof *H. macrophylla*.

86-91. New, novel, who would have thought. Breeding with minor species like *H. scandens*.

92-93. Cape Cod to Watkinsville, Georgia. The hydrangea journey continues.