



PW
PROVEN
WINNERS®

COLOR CHOICE™
FLOWERING SHRUBS

A New Vision for Hardy Hydrangeas



H. arborescens
under evaluation.

Success depends on making the right choice in the first place.

That's true of most everything in life, and especially so in horticulture. When it comes to picking hydrangeas, you're spoiled for choice these days. Maybe too spoiled: the market has been flooded with dozens of new varieties in the past 20 years - some good, some not so good - so making the right choice has become increasingly difficult for growers, retailers, and homeowners alike.

May we suggest a solution?

Cut through the clouds of confusion by choosing only the easiest to grow, most reliable hydrangeas: hardy hydrangeas, like smooth or native hydrangea (*H. arborescens*) and panicle or peegee hydrangea (*H. paniculata*). These two species are exceptionally cold tolerant (down to USDA zone 3) and heat tolerant (up to USDA zone 8b, 9a in some cases), so they thrive in all but the hottest parts of North America. They bloom every year on new wood, which means that

neither harsh winters nor well-intentioned garden (ahem) "helpers" can cause damage which would impair blooming. Every year, these hydrangeas will put on a spectacular, memorable summer show, come what may. Can we say that again? EVERY YEAR.

We select for peerless performance.

Though smooth and panicle hydrangeas have been popular for well over 100 years, they're not without their flaws. In our breeding

and trialing with these two species, we have made improving stem strength, plant habit, flower size and color, and bloom time imperatives for introduction. And thanks to the innovation of some of the world's most creative and dedicated hydrangea breeders, we're able to offer sixteen selections that represent the vanguard of these two species. Whether you are a grower, retailer, landscaper, or home gardener, choosing Proven Winners® ColorChoice® hardy hydrangeas is the first step toward success.

Meet the breeders:

Tom Ranney

INCREDIBALL® Blush,
INVINCIBELLE® Spirit II,
INVINCIBELLE LIMETTA®,
INVINCIBELLE MINI MAUVETTE®,
INVINCIBELLE WEE WHITE®

Tom Ranney has developed dozens of new cultivars in several different genera. It was his team at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station in North Carolina that developed the first selections of pink *H. arborescens* from plants found on a hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains. His dedication to excellence has resulted in these vastly improved selections which boast strong stems, versatile new habits, and remontancy.

Mark Bulk

QUICK FIRE®

Boskoop in the Netherlands is full of nurseries, but Mark Bulk's *Boomkwekerij Rein en Mark Bulk* has stood out as an exceptional horticultural destination since his father, Rein Bulk, founded it in the 1950s. His enormous selection of hydrangeas is testament to his love for the genus.

Johan van Huylenbroeck

BOBO®, PINKY WINKY®

We have Johan to thank for some of our most memorable paniculatas – and some of our most memorable plant names. Dr. van Huylenbroeck is the

director of the ILVO research station in Melle, Belgium, where he conducts a robust program of research and plant breeding.

Tim Wood

INCREDIBALL®, LIME RICKEY®,
FIRE LIGHT®, LITTLE LIME®,
Little QUICK FIRE®,
ZINFIN DOLL®

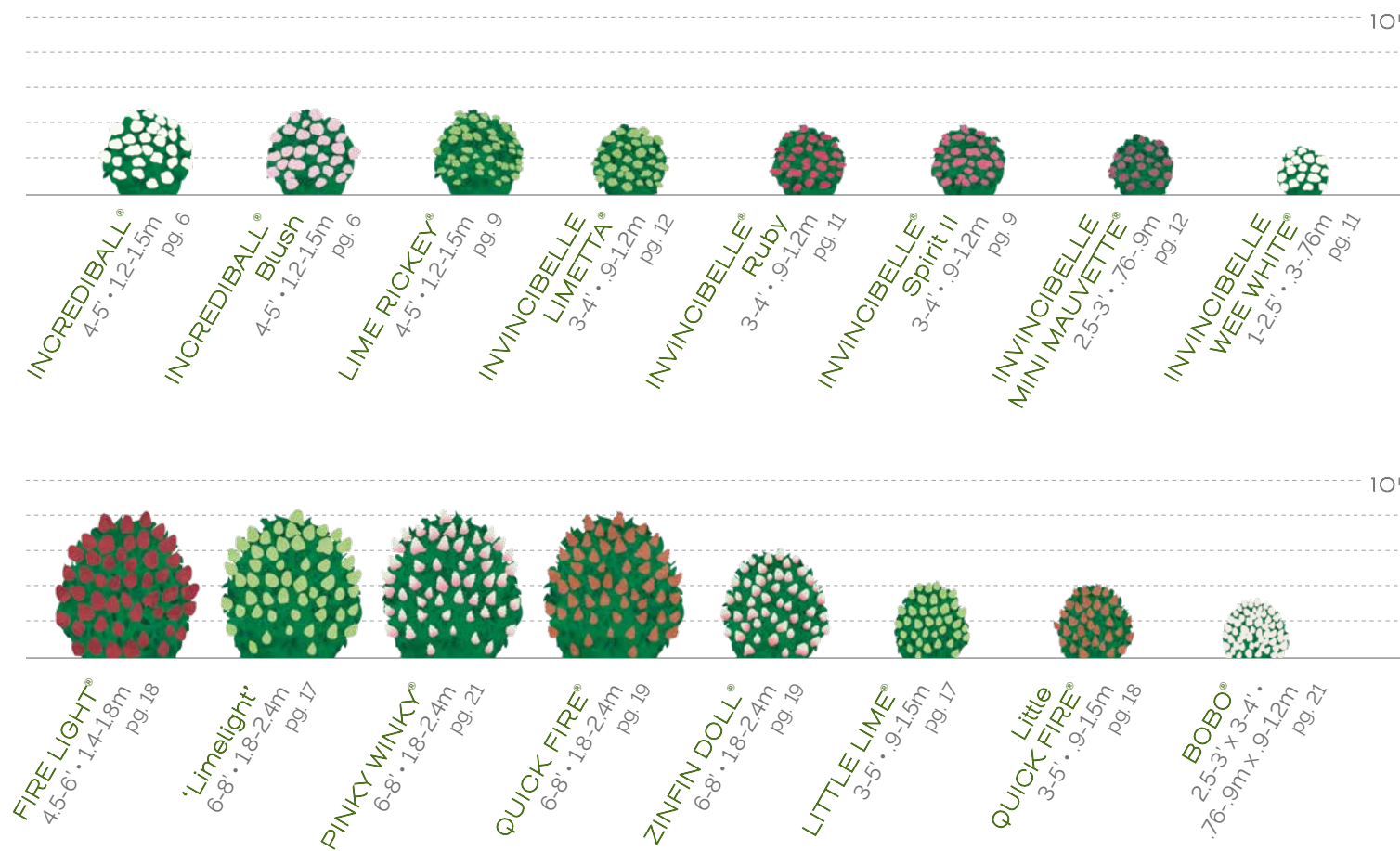
In his capacity as new plant development and marketing manager at Spring Meadow Nursery, Tim Wood has had the opportunity to work with dozens of woody plant species to develop unique, high performance shrubs that appeal to wide segments of the market. He believes that it's still a thrill to happen on one of his plants in someone's landscape.

Pieter Zwijnenburg

'Limelight'

A legendary plantsman who is responsible for one of today's most legendary plants: 'Limelight' hydrangea. Though, as his nursery catalog will attest, his horticultural interests are very diverse, his name will always be associated with the most popular paniculata since pee gee.

Size, Color & Bloom Comparison





Native Hydrangea (*H. arborescens*)

The popularity of this North American native species dates back to the 1960s when Professor Joe McDaniel discovered ‘Annabelle’ hydrangea in Anna, Illinois. It was an instant classic. But if you’ve grown ‘Annabelle,’ you’ve no doubt found yourself thinking – “If only

‘Annabelle’ didn’t flop. If only ‘Annabelle’ wasn’t so enormous. If only ‘Annabelle’ had some color options.” You’re not alone - those are the same ideas that drive our breeding, trialing, and selection criteria for *Hydrangea arborescens*. Our goal has been to preserve all

the outstanding qualities of ‘Annabelle’ while eliminating its flaws.

These eight carefully considered selections will amend and upend your opinion of what *Hydrangea arborescens* can be.

(this page) INCREDIBALL®

(opposite page, top row) LIME RICKEY® • INCREDIBALL® • INCREDIBALL® Blush

(middle row) INVINCIBELLE MINI MAUVETTE® • INVINCIBELLE® Spirit II • INVINCIBELLE WEE WHITE®

(bottom row) INVINCIBELLE LIMETTA® • INVINCIBELLE® Ruby



“*Hydrangea arborescens*... also called ‘Hills of Snow’...blooms are snowy white and very large. This variety is of recent introduction and deserves widespread popularity. Hardy everywhere.”

Fred Haxton’s 1914 Offering of Hardy Flowering Shrubs



Missouri Botanical Garden
Tried and Trouble-free

Plantarium Bronze Medal



◀ INCREDBALL®

Developing an 'Annabelle' with strong stems was a plant breeding no-brainer. What Tim Wood didn't expect when he was working toward this goal, however, was also getting extra-large flowers on top of that. It seems like a contradiction, but INCREDBALL® hydrangea does indeed combine these two features for a jaw-dropping performance envied by anyone who sees it.

Hydrangea arborescens 'Abetwo' PP#20571 CBR#4166

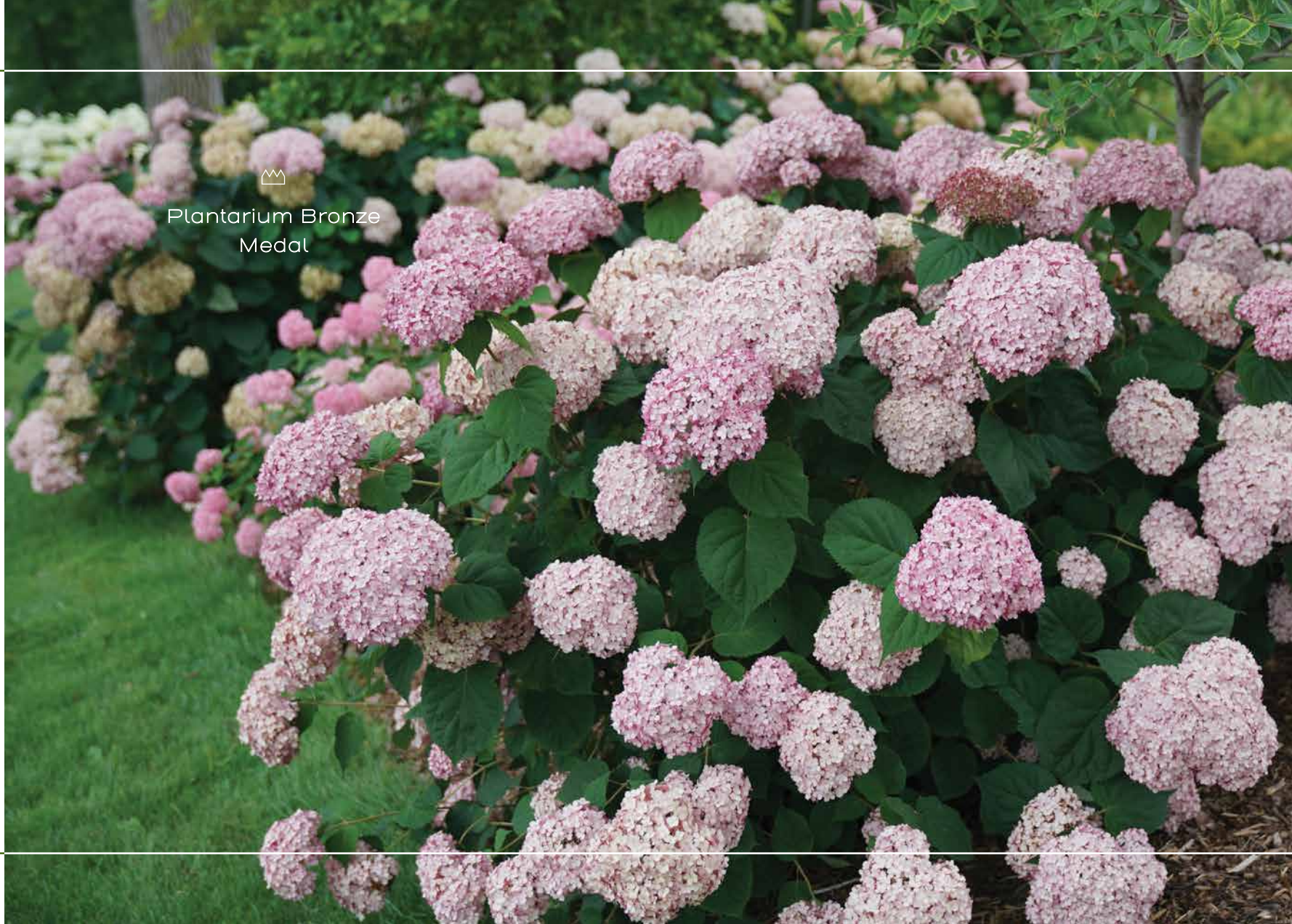
INCREDBALL® Blush ▶

The short definition: it's the pink version of INCREDBALL® hydrangea. That simply doesn't do it justice, though, as its flowers are a unique chrome-pink that's unlike any other flowering shrub, much less hydrangea. Do you dare ask for more? Go ahead - this bodacious beauty is also reblooming, with fresh flowers continuing to appear until the snowflakes fly.

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA4' PP#28280 CBR#5624



Plantarium Bronze
Medal





◁ INVINCIBELLE® Spirit II



Gardening is a bit like track and field. No, not because it's great exercise and sometimes hot and exhausting, but because once you've overcome one hurdle, all you have to do is jump the next to keep moving forward to victory. INVINCIBELLE® Spirit II hydrangea is an improved version of the first and original pink *H. arborescens* with deeper color, stronger stems, and an appealing rounded habit. It's still an outstanding rebloomer, and an overachiever, with \$1/plant going to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation®. Over a million dollars have been donated so far!

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA2' PP#28316 CBR#5622

◁ LIME RICKEY®

Once upon a time in the summer, a LIME RICKEY® hydrangea in our trial garden got pelted with four hours of torrential rain from a greenhouse gutter and when it was over, the plant was completely unfazed. The stems on this hydrangea really are that sturdy, and they hold up unique, luminescent green flowers. Each marbled jade floret is topped with a crown of pink pollen, which seems like something only plant-obsessed weirdos would notice, but it's distinctive enough to charm even the most casual observer.

Hydrangea arborescens 'SMNHALR' PP#28858 CBR#5627



👑
Direct Gardening
Association
Green Thumb
Award



👑
Plantarium
Bronze Medal

◁ INVINCIBELLE WEE WHITE®

It's a dwarf (1-2'/30-62 cm), reblooming 'Annabelle' hydrangea with sturdy stems. It looks like a bouquet of flowers in the landscape. It's rock-solid reliable. And yes, it's every bit as delightful and versatile as it sounds.

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA5' PPAF CBRAF

△ INVINCIBELLE® Ruby

We may be guilty of overusing the adjective “rich” to describe flower color, but in the case of INVINCIBELLE® Ruby hydrangea, it's truly accurate. Rich ruby-red flowers on a medium sized plant appear from early summer through frost for a display that will make you feel wealthy, indeed.

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA3' PP#28317 CBR#5623

◀ INVINCIBELLE LIMETTA®

Good ol' green – it goes with the color of every house or building, and gets along with every plant. And INVINCIBELLE LIMETTA® hydrangea also brings along a dwarf habit that's easy to work into an established landscape or garden, transforming any bare spot into a shower of flowers from early summer through fall.

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA8' PPAF CBRAF

INVINCIBELLE MINI MAUVETTE® ▶

“Mauve” is an old-fashioned word, but INVINCIBELLE MINI MAUVETTE® is thoroughly modern. Mysterious purple-pink colored blooms rise from deeply toothed, extremely dark green foliage. Stems are very stiff and strong, all the better to hold up the flowers, which rebloom through frost.

Hydrangea arborescens 'NCHA7' PPAF CBRAF



Garden Center Group's
Retailers' Choice
Award



Panicle Hydrangea (*H. paniculata*)

The first rule of gardening is that there's no such thing as a black thumb. But if there were, panicle hydrangeas (*H. paniculata*) would be the plants that even the most horticulturally hapless could grow successfully. Exceptionally floriferous, panicle hydrangeas undergo a natural

flower coloring process, transforming from white to pink or red tones as the bloom ages. This happens independent of soil chemistry and results in a colorful, coordinated display that makes anyone look like a horticultural hero.

(this page) *Hydrangea paniculata* trial beds
(opposite page, top row) BOBO® • FIRE LIGHT® • 'Limelight' • LITTLE LIME®
(bottom row) Little QUICK FIRE® • QUICK FIRE® • ZINFIN DOLL® • PINKY WINKY®





'Limelight'

The variety that launched *Hydrangea paniculata* into the...well... limelight. Everyone told us we were crazy for introducing a plant with green flowers, but 'Limelight' has become the best-selling panicle hydrangea in history. Large mophead flowers start green, open to creamy white, and then age to a painterly blend of red, pink, burgundy, and green. The sight of a 'Limelight' in full bloom has sent countless homeowners running for their nearest garden center to get a plant of their own, as a drive down any residential street in late July can attest.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight' PP#12874 CBR#2319

LITTLE LIME®

For those longing for the limelight but lacking the luxury of space, we offer LITTLE LIME® hydrangea. Equally floriferous, equally colorful, equally easy to grow, but LITTLE LIME® tops out at just 3-5' (.9-1.5m) tall and wide, about half the size of the original, unlocking a whole new world of landscape possibilities.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Jane' PP#22330 CBR#3914



'Limelight'

Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers Cut Flower of the Year

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal

Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit

Mississippi Medallion Award

Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Showstopper Plant

Louisiana Super Plant



LITTLE LIME®

American Nursery & Landscape Association Best New Plant

Plantarium Gold Medal

Green Is Life Bronze Medal

Boskoop Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal





FIRE LIGHT®

The time to hesitate is through: FIRE LIGHT® is the next big thing in panicle hydrangeas. Selected for its early, consistent, deep red color and compact habit (sturdy stems, of course, are a given), it has become one of our top five most-requested paniculatas in its short time on the market. So what are you waiting for? Come on baby, plant this hydrangea.

Hydrangea paniculata 'SMHPFL' PP#25135 CBR#5160



Little QUICK FIRE®

This scaled-down version of QUICK FIRE® hydrangea gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy an extended panicle hydrangea season. Early blooms, remarkably handsome foliage, and colorful lacecap flowers, all in about half the space as the original. No, our breeders don't have a special shrink ray – Little QUICK FIRE® hydrangea was developed using traditional breeding techniques, although, admittedly, a shrink ray would have been convenient.

Hydrangea paniculata 'SMHPLQF' PP#25136 CBR#5406



QUICK FIRE®

The earliest blooming panicle hydrangea – and that goes a long way, considering that some cultivars may not bloom until summer is nearly over in cool climates. QUICK FIRE® hydrangea blooms right around the 4th of July for us here in Michigan, kicking off summer with an explosion of white lacecap blooms that quickly turn a pure, true red. The foliage is quite distinctive, too: deeply corrugated, held to the branch by showy red stems, and exhibiting kaleidoscopic fall color rarely seen in the species.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Bulk' PP#16812 CBR#3398



ZINFIN DOLL®

The newest member of our *H. paniculata* selections, ZINFIN DOLL® hydrangea was the 2018 winner of our Shrub Madness contest, where nearly 275,000 votes from gardeners across North America crowned it National Champion. It just goes to show you how enticing these unique ombré blooms, shaded dark pink to white from base to tip, are. Add in the benefits of outstanding stem strength and early bloom, and ZINFIN DOLL® hydrangea becomes downright irresistible.

Hydrangea paniculata 'SMNHPRZEP' PP#26956 CBRAF



👑
Royal Horticultural
Society Award of
Garden Merit

Missouri Botanical
Garden Tried and
Trouble-free

◀ PINKY WINKY®

Don't be fooled by its dainty sounding name, delicately colorful flowers, or the dozens of butterflies flocking to it in bloom – PINKY WINKY® is a hydrangea heavyweight. The largest blooms of any paniculata, the lacecap flowers start white and turn deep pink from the bottom up as they age. Thick, vigorous stems create a sturdy frame that give this plant unassailable presence in the landscape all year long.

Hydrangea paniculata 'DVP PINKY' PP#16166 CBR#2889

BOBO® ▶

Sure, it's a funny name, but BOBO® hydrangea is no joke. In bloom, this super dwarf selection becomes more flower than foliage, bedecked with a mantle of frilly mophead blooms that turn a sweet, soft pink as the age. Space-saving habit makes it easy to fit into an established garden or landscape, or given pride of place in a large patio container.

Hydrangea paniculata 'ILVOBO' PP#22782 CBR#4910



👑
Salon du Vegetal
New Plant
Bronze Medal

Gold Florall Award



PROVEN WINNERS® COLORCHOICE®
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Grand Haven, MI 49417

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GRAND RAPIDS MI
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Find your source for Proven Winners hydrangeas and flowering shrubs at www.provenwinners-shrubs.com.

Questions about growing hydrangeas? Visit www.provenwinners.com/feedback. We'll get back to you right away.

