

# Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm

Real Plants. Real People. Real Passion.

## HYDRANGEA PRUNING CHECKLIST

*Know what you grow before you make the first cut.*

**Important: Hydrangeas don't all prune the same way. Identify the type and whether it blooms on old wood, new wood, or both before pruning.**

### 1 Identify Your Hydrangea

- Panicle hydrangea - examples: Limelight, Bobo, Pinky Winky, Quick Fire
- Smooth hydrangea - examples: Annabelle, Incrediball
- Bigleaf hydrangea - mophead or lacecap types
- Oakleaf hydrangea
- Mountain hydrangea
- I'm not sure - check the plant tag, receipt, or plant directory before pruning

### 2 Use the Right Pruning Window

Hydrangea Type	Blooms On	Best Time	What to Do
Panicle	New wood	Late winter to early spring	Shape, thin, or reduce size before new growth takes off.
Smooth	New wood	Late winter to early spring	Remove weak stems and cut back as needed for fresh growth.
Bigleaf	Usually old wood; some rebloom	Right after flowering, if needed	Avoid hard pruning in fall, winter, or early spring.
Oakleaf	Old wood	Right after flowering, if needed	Prune lightly. Preserve the natural shape.
Mountain	Usually old wood; some rebloom	Right after flowering, if needed	Use a light touch and remove only what is necessary.

### 3 Gather and Clean Your Tools

- Sharp hand pruners
- Loppers for thicker stems
- Gloves and eye protection
- Rubbing alcohol or disinfectant for cleaning blades
- Bag or tarp for collecting cuttings

**Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm • [ourplantfarm.com](http://ourplantfarm.com)**

*For educational use. Always verify the variety and pruning needs before cutting.*

# Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm | Hydrangea Pruning Checklist

## 4 Inspect Before You Cut

- Look for dead, broken, rubbing, or diseased stems
- Check for swelling buds before removing live wood
- Trace questionable stems toward the base before cutting
- Step back and study the natural shape of the shrub
- Decide whether pruning is truly needed this year

## 5 Make the Cuts

- Remove dead and damaged wood first
- Cut out weak or crossing stems
- Remove a few of the oldest stems at ground level when thinning an established shrub
- Make clean cuts just above a healthy bud or branch junction
- Avoid cutting every stem to the same height unless the variety and goal call for it
- Stop often and check the shape from several angles

## 6 After Pruning

- Collect and discard diseased material
- Compost only healthy cuttings
- Clean and dry tools before storing them
- Water during dry weather as new growth begins
- Apply mulch around the root zone, keeping it away from the stems
- Record the pruning date and what you removed

## 7 Pruning Record

**Hydrangea variety:**

**Hydrangea type:**

**Date pruned:**

**Reason for pruning:**

**Notes for next year:**

## 8 Quick Reminders

- Dead wood can be removed whenever you're certain it is dead.
- Old-wood hydrangeas may lose a season of flowers if pruned too late.
- Reblooming varieties are more forgiving, but correct timing still produces the best display.
- A healthy hydrangea usually needs less pruning than people think.

## 9 Extra Notes

---

---