

“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners” ***Endless Summer Hydrangea by Amy Weber***

Hydrangea macrophylla – ‘Endless Summer the Original’

Common name: bigleaf hydrangea

Family: Hydrangeaceae

I LOVE true blue flowers! I’ve loved hydrangeas since childhood and their many shades of blue. Years ago, I planted the traditional *Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Nikko Blue’ in a shady corner of my backyard and it has given me years of enjoyment. In 2008, on a vacation to coastal towns in Massachusetts, I marveled at how many were used in the landscape and that they added to the “Coastal Charm”. After an exterior home



remodeling the following year, I started new with foundation plantings. I didn’t want the traditional “cones and balls” of most foundation shrubs and wanted more casual plantings to go with my 1950 bungalow home. Needing something that would tolerate a little sun, the Endless Summer Hydrangea fit the bill. The one growing on the front corner of my house seems particularly appealing, that passersby will often slow to look, take a photo, or even ask for the flowers! Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2014, I’ve added other hydrangea species and love them all, but the Endless Summer provides the most blooms throughout the summer.

‘The Original’ was the first in the Endless Summer® Collection. This is the first hydrangea that blooms on old and new growth (unlike most that bloom on old growth), allowing you to prune in late winter. It is a hardy, low maintenance, disease resistant variety, though can be susceptible to leaf spot. It blooms pink or blue depending on the pH level of the soil: blue in more acidic soil and pink in more alkaline soil. This shrub will give you years of enjoyment. For more information on growing, pruning, and propagating the different types of Hydrangeas visit: <https://www.thespruce.com/growing-hydrangeas-1402684>



Type: Deciduous shrub
Height: 3-5’ x Spread: 3-5’
Blooms late spring into fall
Part Sun, preferring afternoon shade
Moist, well-drained soil
Zones 4 – 9

Photos by Amy Weber
Additional References:
endlesssummerblooms.com
Missouri Botanical Garden / Plant Finder

May 2020