

How it's done



From March to October volunteers plant, prune, deadhead, weed, improve the soil and edge the beds on the Tuesday mornings of these months between 10 am and 12 noon. A smaller group fundraises and promotes the collection as a unique visitor attraction in Derby. Guided by Plant Heritage, we identify, document and preserve our specialist interest plant group, *Hydrangea paniculata*, some of which are in danger of being lost from cultivation.

The annual Open Day is at the beginning of August.

Hydrangea Derby works in partnership with Derby City Council and Plant Heritage. Neighbourhood involvement helps us complete more complicated projects.

Funding and Donations

Hydrangea Derby is completely self-funded and needs your help to continue. Sponsors are most welcome, and private donations can be made by using envelopes available in the walled garden. You can also make a donation through our Hydrangea Derby JustGiving page, or simply scan the QR code, to be taken straight there.



How to find us

We are in Darley Park, Derby, just off the A6 in a walled garden near the Terrace and Café.



There are free car parks at Darley Park Drive DE22 1EN and Darley Street DE22 1DX. The garden is accessible by wheelchair and buggy, but is on a slope with some grassed paths.

Opening Times

The walled garden is open between the beginning of July and the end of October, when the hydrangeas are in flower. The outer garden is open all year. Hydrangea Derby is part of Darley Park and is free to all visitors.

www.hydrangeaderby.co.uk

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A secret walled garden with more hydrangeas than anywhere else in the UK

Home to the National Collection of *Hydrangea paniculata*

Hydrangea paniculata

These deciduous shrubs with cone-shaped flower heads, which can be dense with sterile showy florets, or lacy and open with different ratios of fertile and sterile florets, are an asset to any garden. Hardy throughout Britain, they put on a vigorous display from August to November.



Exciting new cultivars adding pinks and greens to the flower head and deepening in colour as the season progresses are coming to the market; as are more compact varieties, more suitable for smaller gardens and borders.



Flowers will grow on this year's growth so prune in March. For many small flower heads, deadhead only;



for not so many but larger heads, prune to 5 buds; for fewer and much larger heads, prune to two buds.

Our other hydrangea species all flower between July and November. Here is a selection..

Macrophylla

are large-leaved and, depending on the ratios of fertile and sterile florets, have either mophead or lacecap flower heads. These grow



on last year's growth so only prune for size and shape. Pink blooms require alkaline soil and blue blooms, acid soil.

Serrata have a serrated edge to their leaves, produce lacecap flower heads on last year's growth, and are happiest in cooler and more shady environments. Prune for size and shape.



Arborescens, most commonly, have creamy-white flower heads with varying ratios of fertile and sterile florets. Newer



cultivars can be pink or green and some have heads so large that they need support. They can endure colder climates and are drought resistant when planted in the shade. Prune to the ground in March.

Quercifolias

have oak-shaped leaves which can turn dark red and purple in Autumn. The cone-shaped flower heads start white or cream and can develop antique pink tones. Grown in shade or sun, they can suffer root rot if the soil is too wet.



Aspera grow vigorously but prefer shade. The lacecap flower heads have varying tones of purple fertile florets surrounded by a ring of pink sterile florets. Large bristly leaves add drama.



Anomala petiolaris and Seemannii

These self-clinging climbing hydrangeas, which grow from 9 to 24 metres, have heart-shaped leaves and, sometimes fragrant, lacecap flower heads. A north or east aspect is best for them and because of their aerial roots, are sometimes used as ground cover. Prune for size and shape.

