

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea quercifolia

The official state wild flower of Alabama.

Description: The Oakleaf gets its name from its large oak shaped leaves. A deciduous shrub with white-panicle flowers, blooms best in areas where summers are somewhat hot. A tremendous advantage is that it can thrive in much dryer locations.

Size: 6 to 10 feet with 3-5 foot spread

Growth Rate: Fast

Light: Partial shade

Planting and Care: Moist well drained areas. Can grow in dry conditions but does not like its feet wet. Best to mulch around the roots to keep them cool. If you wish to prune this Hydrangea to create a dense shrub, do so after it flowers so you can enjoy the spectacular flower display.

Ornamental Value: These leaves often turn colors of brilliant red, orange, yellow and burgundy in the fall if planted in a sunny location with a little afternoon shade. White flowers fade to pink then tan; good for drying and if harvested at a particular color stage and hung upside down in a dark, well-ventilated area to dry, the flowers will retain some of their original color.

Landscape Usage: It makes a nice accent in a shrub border or growing out of a ground cover. The oakleaf hydrangea is best suited when used in a mixed border or as a mass planting.

Wildlife Benefits: Seeds eaten by birds and cover for small mammals