



## Plant Description and Growing Tips

**Plant Name:** Invincibelle® Spirit Hydrangea

**Common Name:** Smooth Hydrangea

**Foliage Color:** Dark green

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3-9

**Bloom Time:** Late May/early June, continuous blooming up until frost

**Bloom Color:** The flowers emerge a dark, hot pink color and mature to a light dusty pink.

**Botanical Name:** *Hydrangea arborescens* 'NCHA1' ppaf, cbrf

**Bud Set:** Blooms on new wood

**Bloom size:** 6-8 inches in diameter

**Quantity of Blooms:** Often 100 or more flower heads per plant over the summer

**Spacing:** 48 - 60"

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Plant size:** 3-4 feet tall, 3-4 feet wide

**Branching Habit:** Freely branching with as many as 100 or more terminal shoots per plant

**Growth rate:** Moderate to fast

**Soil:** Very adaptable, but proliferates in rich, moist, well-drained soil. Soil pH does not affect bloom color.

**Pruning:** Cut back to 2 feet in early Spring. Remove any dead branches.

**Watering:** If planted in full sun, sufficient moisture is needed. Will require additional watering on hot, dry summer days. In the South, should be planted in partial shade.

**Wildlife:** Habitat for songbirds and butterflies

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize in early spring by applying a slow release fertilizer specialized for trees and shrubs. Follow the label for recommended rate of application.

**Uses:** Landscape groupings or masses, perennial or shrub borders, specimen, winter gardens.

**Breeder:** Dr. Thomas Ranny, NCSU. Mountain Horticultural Crop Research and Extension Center. Fletcher, North Carolina.

**Classification:** Deciduous flowering shrub

### Ornamental Features:

Reliable blooms produce flowers every year regardless of frost or pruning technique. Hardy and heat tolerant. Reblooms up until frost.

**Habit and Growth Rate:** It has an upright rounded habit and good, healthy growth

**Maintenance:** Minimal; Deadheading not necessary

### How plant differs from species/other cultivars:

The only Annabelle type with pink flowers. Reblooms without deadheading. Very reliable flowering

### Landscape niche/value:

Excellent for general landscaping, including naturalized areas. Good for cutting gardens. Flowering hedge and mass plantings

### Native:

Eastern United States. Florida to Maine, Kansas to Eastern Seaboard.

### Container Plant Style:

Thriller: Used either in the back or middle of a container. Usually a taller item that adds height and drama to the container.

**Notes:** Invincibelle Spirit takes several years in the garden to reach full maturity. The stems of immature plants may not be strong enough to hold their blooms upright. As the plant matures, stem strength increases and holds the blooms up nicely. The amount and size of flowers also increases as the plant matures.

**Hardy Temperature:** -40° F (-40° C)