

Hydrangea quercifolia Bartr.



Common Name	Oakleaf Hydrangea
Botanical Name	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>
Family	Hydrangeaceae
Form	Shrub
Growth Habit	This deciduous shrub has drooping stems and a rounded form. It grows from 5'-10' tall and is multi-stemmed, forming colonies when growth is unrestricted.
Bark	Young stems of Oakleaf Hydrangea are covered in fine, rust colored hairs, while older stems have thin bark that peels in flakes, revealing rusty brown, tan, and orangy colors.
Leaves	The opposite leaves are yellow-green in color on top and paler with fine hairs underneath. The leaves may have 3, 5, or 7 lobes and are 4"-12" long and wide, with toothed edges. In the fall, the foliage turns shades of red, gold, or purple.
Flowers	The flowers bloom in the spring and are present on the shrub in upright, cone-shaped clusters from 6"-12" long and 3"-5" across. They are creamy white when they first bloom, becoming light pink

and then taking on a rusty, brownish color as they remain on the bush in the fall. Individual flowers are about 1"-1 ½" across, but the flowers that produce the showy display are not fertile; the fertile flowers are inconspicuous.

Fruit	An inconspicuous, textured, brown capsule.
Soil conditions	Oakleaf Hydrangea favors rich, moist soils that have a basic pH, especially areas that are underlain by limestone.
Water	This species is drought tolerant, but it will not flower during especially dry periods and does best with supplemental watering.
Light Requirement	Partial to nearly full shade
Native Growth Zone	8-9
Propagation	Seed, division, cuttings
Habitat	Found in mixed hardwood forests, often along stream banks.
Remarks	This is one of only two species of Hydrangea that produces cone-shaped inflorescences as opposed to flat-topped or rounded flower clusters. This species is not salt tolerant and will not survive in coastal plantings.

Works Consulted