

Hydrangeaceae

hydrangea family

Of the 170 or so species worldwide, only one occurs in Nova Scotia as a garden escape. Members of this family include shrubs, woody vines and small trees. Most have simple, estipulate, and opposite leaves. Inflorescences are cymose with perfect flowers or with marginal flowers sterile. The corolla and calyx are 4-5-parted; stamens 8-many. The fruit is a capsule.

***Hydrangea* L.**

Shrubs or vines, they have many small flowers in cymes. The fertile flowers are small with short petals. Sterile flowers have only large petaloid sepals. The capsular fruit exhibit conspicuous ribs, two compartments and many seeds.

***Hydrangea arborescens* L.**

American Hydrangea; hortensia en arbre

A shrub, it may grow up to 3m. Leaves are toothed, oblong to round-ovate. Inflorescence is generally flat-topped, up to 10cm wide. Flowers are white, ranging from all fertile to partly fertile, and partly sterile to all sterile; ovary is epigynous .

Flowers in July-September.

Shaded hillsides.

One location known in Wolfville, Kings Co.

Canadian populations are considered introductions; occurring in ON, NB and NS ranging south to FL, LA, OK, west to KS.