Gatsby Glow Balll® Hydrangea - New For 2026!

Hydrangea quercifolia 'NCHQ1'



Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Group/Class: Gatsby Series

Description:

A choice compact garden or massing shrub featuring impressively large, full panicles of pure white flowers that mature to lime green; wine red fall foliage color; blooms on old wood; a great selection for smaller gardens and patio containers

Ornamental Features

Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea features bold conical white flowers at the ends of the branches from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive green deciduous foliage. The lobed leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of dark red and burgundy in the fall. The peeling brick red bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Gatsby Glow Balll Hydrangea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.