

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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Hypericum Hidcote

By Eva Soud

Hidcote St. John's Wort
Hypericum x 'Hidcote'

Brilliant golden yellow 3-inch, cup-shaped flowers bloom on this tidy mounding shrub. Attractive dark green foliage adds contrast to the blooms. Well suited as a low, untrimmed hedge. Stunning color when planted in mass. Grows well in dry, rocky soils.

Care Information

Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish an extensive root system. Feed regularly during the growing season with a general purpose fertilizer. Prune annually in late winter to promote vigorous new growth.

History Currently thought to be a hybrid between H. x cyathiflorum 'Gold Cup' and H. calycinum.

Key feature: Summer Flowering

Plant type: Shrub

Garden style: Cottage

Deciduous/evergreen: Deciduous

Cold hardiness zones: 4 - 8

Light needs: Partial to full sun

Water Needs: Needs regular watering - weekly,

or more often in extreme heat.

Average landscape size: Medium grower to 4 ft. tall and wide.

Growth rate: Moderate

Special feature: Deer Resistant

Flower color: Yellow

Blooms: Summer

Foliage color: Green



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Vanilla Strawberry

“Imagine the possibilities!”

Like the original 'Endless Summer' hydrangea, newly introduced 'Vanilla Strawberry' produces stunning blooms throughout the summer on both new and old stems.

One of the purest pleasures for the sunny to partly shaded garden is this French introduction, a member of the PeeGee Hydrangea family. With blooms that arise continuously for many weeks, changing colors as they mature, plus a habit that turns from upright to cascading,

'Vanilla Strawberry' is a showpiece of a shrub that looks a bit different every time you glance at it, all summer long!

The enormous pointed flowerheads get underway in midsummer in most climates, beginning green, then quickly turning a creamy shade of white.

Within a week or two they are blushing pink, and eventually become a rich shade of rose! Meanwhile, new flowerheads are arising all the time, so a blooming shrub is likely to have the full range of colors from pale green to carmine all displayed at once!

Large, well-branched, and vigorous, 'Vanilla Strawberry' reaches 6 to 7 feet high and 4 to 5 feet wide within just a few seasons. The flowers continue well into fall in most areas, and are, as you can imagine, spectacular in fresh and dried arrangements. The bright green foliage is dense and

attractive too, so 'Vanilla Strawberry' always looks its best. In winter,

masses of bare stems promise another season of beauty next spring!

Not only do the blooms change color as they mature, the entire shrub changes its habit a bit as the summer progresses and fall arrives. These

bloomheads are heavy, and the branches begin to weep after several weeks

of fully-blooming giant wands. This adds to the ornamental appeal of

'Vanilla Strawberry,' and makes for interesting change in the garden.



Best in full sun in the north, afternoon or dappled shade farther south and west, this Hydrangea is easy to grow in continuously moist, well-drained soil. Butterflies will visit it, and it is very low maintenance, asking only for adequate water. Try it in the border, the foundation, the woodland garden, or even as a specimen. You will be amazed at its beauty and ever-changing interest. Zones 4-9.

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back

into the slow circles of nature, is a help.

Gardening is an instrument of grace. "

Hydrangea paniculata Vanilla Strawberry

Little Lime Hydrangea

www.villgc.com



Creating harmony, simplicity and peace in the landscape...

I love the tall 'Limelight' Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight') for its beautiful and reliable lime green flowers, easy growth and its easy care.

It is hardy to Zone 3 and thrives in full sun or partial shade. It makes both a wonderful cut flower and landscape plant.

Now there is a new dwarf form called 'Little Lime' from Proven Winners which grows in full sun or part shade. Its final height is 3-5' tall and wide, about a third to half as big as Limelight.

This hydrangea blooms from midsummer to frost. Like its big sister, Little Lime's flowers gradually change from lime-green to pink and make wonderful bouquets, fresh or dried.



It is especially charming as a container plant.

It will flower every year. It will fit in any yard. It works well with most other plants in landscape designs. It will grow in full sun.



Height: Tall 3-5' / Plant 4' apart

Bloom Time: Summer to Fall

Sun-Shade: Full Sun to Half Sun/ Half Shade

Zones: 4-8

Soil Condition: Normal

Flower Color / Accent: White / Green

GREAT FOR:

- Border plants
- Cut flower or foliage
- Mass Planting

TIPS & MAINTENANCE:

Hydrangeas grow best in fertile, well-drained soils. They are not very drought tolerant, and should be watered regularly during dry periods.

NEW! *Hydrangea paniculata* Little Lime™ The same refreshing color as 'Limelight', on a hardy shrub about one-third the size. *Hydrangea*

From the garden of Eva

Fresh Peach Cookies



| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter (margarine) | 1 cup sugar |
| 1 egg | 2 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1/2 tsp baking soda | 1/4 tsp nutmeg |
| 1/4 tsp cinnamon | 1/8 tsp ginger |
| 1/8 tsp ground cloves | 1/8 tsp salt |
| 3 peaches (fresh ripe) | 1/2 cup raisins (desired) |

- 1 Cream butter or margarine and sugar in a bowl.
- 2 Add egg and beat until light and fluffy.
- 3 In another bowl mix flour, baking soda and seasonings.
- 4 Stir flour mixture into egg mixture, a little at a time.
- 5 Peel, pit and finely dice peaches, stir into cookie mixture.
- 6 Stir in raisins.
- 7 Drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheet.
- 8 Bake at 375°F for 20 minutes until cookies are brown on top
- 9 Cool thoroughly.



Peach Melba Recipe

Grilled Peach Recipe for Crepes

Ingredients:

- 4 fresh peaches, peeled
- ½ cup of canola oil
- 2 tbsps of cinnamon sugar
- Raspberry Sauce
- Vanilla Ice Cream
- 4 dessert crepes



This fresh peach recipe is based on the classic dessert created by the French chef Auguste Escoffier in 1892 in honor of the Australian soprano Dame Nellie Melba.

You'll be hitting the high notes after one bite of our version, which includes

warm crepes, grilled peaches, and vanilla ice cream!

First, make crepes . Cover and keep warm. If you made your crepes ahead of time, wrap them in foil and reheat in a 325-degree oven for about 10 minutes or until warmed. Preheat grill or grill pan to medium heat. Cut peeled peaches in half and remove stone. Brush cut edge of peaches with canola oil and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Place cut edges on grill. As first side cooks, coat the other side of each peach with more oil. Grill for 3-4 minutes until visible grill marks appear. Turn peaches over and grill the remaining side for 3 more minutes. Remove from heat and sprinkle with remaining cinnamon sugar. Slice each halve into 4 slices for a total of 32 peach slices.

Assemble crepes: Lay first crepe across serving platter. Spoon 8 slices of peach inside crepe. Roll up and top with one scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Drizzle with raspberry sauce. Repeat with remaining crepes and serve immediately.

Yield: 4 servings (1 crepe each)

Living with Nature

Glistening cobalt blue above and tawny below, Barn Swallows dart gracefully over fields, barn yards, and open water in search of flying insect prey. Look for the long, deeply forked tail that streams out behind this agile flyer and sets it apart from all other North American swallows.

Barn Swallows often cruise low, flying just a few inches above the ground or water. True to their name, they build their cup-shaped mud nests almost exclusively on human-made structures.



Cool Facts

- The Barn Swallow is the most abundant and widely distributed swallow species in the world. It breeds throughout the Northern Hemisphere and winters in much of the Southern Hemisphere.
- Barn Swallows once nested in caves throughout North America, but now build their nests almost exclusively on human-made structures. Today the only North American Barn Swallow population that still regularly uses caves as nest sites occurs in the Channel Islands off the California coast.
- Barn Swallow parents sometimes get help from other birds to feed their young. These “helpers at the nest” are usually older siblings from previous clutches, but unrelated juveniles may help as well.
- An unmated male Barn Swallow may kill the nestlings of a nesting pair. His actions often succeed in breaking up the pair and afford him the opportunity to mate with the female.
- Although the killing of egrets is often cited for inspiring the U.S. conservation movement, it was the millinery (hat-making) trade’s impact on Barn Swallows that prompted naturalist George Bird Grinnell’s 1886 Forest & Stream editorial decrying the waste of bird life. His essay led to the founding of the first Audubon Society.
- According to legend, the Barn Swallow got its forked tail because it stole fire from the gods to bring to people. An angry deity hurled a firebrand at the swallow, singeing away its middle tail feathers.
- The oldest known Barn Swallow in North America was 8 years, 1 month old.

Barn Swallows forage in open areas throughout most of the continent, including suburban parks and ball fields, agricultural fields, beaches, and over open water such as lakes, ponds and coastal waters. They range from sea level up to 10,000 feet. Breeding habitat must include open areas for foraging, structures or cliffs to build nests on, and a source of mud such as a riverbank to provide the material for building

Flies of all types make up the majority of the Barn Swallow’s diet, along with beetles, bees, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and other flying insects.

Barn Swallows usually take relatively large, single insects rather than feeding on swarms of smaller prey. They will also pick up grit and small pebbles, or eggshells and oyster shells set out by humans, which may help the birds digest insects or add needed calcium to the diet.



Autumn Olive

Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb.

Oleaster Family (Elaeagnaceae)

Origin: East Asia

Background

Autumn olive was introduced into the United States in 1830 and widely planted as an ornamental, for wildlife habitat, as windbreaks and to restore deforested and degraded lands.

Distribution and Habitat

Autumn olive is found from Maine to Virginia and west to Wisconsin in grasslands, fields, open woodlands and other disturbed areas. It is drought tolerant and thrives in a variety of soil and moisture conditions. Because autumn olive is capable of fixing nitrogen in its roots, it can grow on bare mineral substrates.

Ecological Threat

It threatens native ecosystems by out-competing and displacing native plant species, creating dense shade and interfering with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling.

Description and Biology

Plant: deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 ft. in height; stems, buds and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales.

Leaves: alternate; deciduous; egg or lance-shaped, smooth margined, dull green above and often with brown scales beneath.

Flowers, fruits and seeds: flowers occur in June and July; aromatic, pale yellow, fused at the base with 4 petals pointed at the tips; fruits are produced August through October; small, red-brown to pink and dotted with brown or silvery scales; abundant.

Spreads: by seed that is dispersed by birds and mammals; some vegetative propagation also occurs.

Look-alikes: Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) leaves are narrow-elongate with silvery scales on both sides and fruit is mealy, yellow or silvery; thorny olive (*E. pungens*) has leaves that are persistent, egg-shaped with wavy margins, upper surfaces shiny green, lacking scales, and lower surfaces covered with dull white scales and dotted with light brown scales.



Prevention and Control Do not plant autumn olive. Individual young plants can be hand-pulled, ensuring that roots are removed. Cutting, in

combination with herbicide application, is effective. Hedges can be cut down using a brush type mower, chain saw, or similar tool, and stumps treated with a systemic herbicide like glyphosate or triclopyr (see Control Options). Herbivorous animals are not known to feed on it and few insects seem to utilize or bother it. Canker disease is occasionally a problem.

It's a bug eat

Bug world

How to Get Rid of Ants & Slugs in My Potting Plants

Ants and slugs are a problem for plant lovers. They are not selective and will visit any plant that has beneficial resources, even potted plants. Slugs enjoy eating the tender stems and leaves and create holes wherever they snack. Ants are attracted to the plants that house aphids and scales and will establish a home in pots that contain edible substances or comfortable potting soil. Both pests make potted plants look unattractive, and their activities are harmful. You can use various remedies to remove slugs and ants from your potted plants. However, you must do so carefully to avoid damaging the plant.



- 1 Soak the potted plant in water to remove the ants. Place the pot inside a bucket and fill the bucket with water up to the top of the plant. Let the potted plant soak for at least an hour to force all the ants out of the soil. Lift the pot out of the bucket and let it drain. For pots too large to place in a bucket, water the plant continuously for 30 minutes to evict the ants.
- 2 Put the potted plant in a large container or pan. Fill a second pot with compost, humus or dirt and set it next to the potted plant. Place a stick on the edges of both pots as a bridge. Water the potted plant continuously to disturb the ants. Because they do not like water, the ants will use the bridge to escape to the second pot.
- 3 Place ant bait on the floor, close to your potted plant. When the ants smell the bait, they leave the pot to feed on the poison. They do not return after they have ingested the bait. Effective bait can eliminate the ants in a short amount of time.
- 4 Sprinkle natural repellents such as cinnamon or talcum powder around your potted plants to keep ants from returning.
- 5 Place potted plants in shallow containers of water to prevent ants from climbing in to prevent future infestations. Ensure there are no leaves or branches close to the ground that ants could use as a bridge.

Remove Slugs from Potted Plants

- 6 Pick off the slugs from your plant and dispose of them. Check for slugs on the stems, both sides of the leaves, the base of the plant and the sides of the pot.
- 7 Eliminate slugs with pellets or snail bait if the problem is severe. Place the pellets or bait on top of the soil. The slugs eventually perish after consuming the poison.
- 8 Place a container of beer on the soil or near the potted plant. According to the authors of "Logee's Greenhouses Spectacular Container Plants," slugs enjoy the taste of beer and will drink it, then drown in the liquid. Use containers that are about a half-inch deep -- shallow enough for slugs to enter and deep enough to drown in.
- 9 Prevent further infestation of slugs with nontoxic remedies. Surround the potted plant with a copper wire or copper flashing, an element that slugs abhor.
- 10 Repel slugs by sprinkling crushed eggshells on the soil or around the pot.





Gardener's tip

Thyme in the Garden

The right tool for the job

Using the right pruning tool will make any pruning job easier. The size of your plants stems will determine the right tool to use.

Stems 1/2 inch diameter or less = hand pruners

Stems 1/2 to 1 inch diameter = lopping shears

Stems 1 inch diameter or larger = pruning saw



Pruning spirea shrubs

Spirea can be trimmed lightly or severely depending on what you are trying to accomplish. If you just want to clean up the spent flower blooms, just cut them off with pruners. Depending on your climate and when you do this, you may get additional blooms the same season.

If you want to control the size of the plant to keep it smaller, you can cut it down to any length you desire. This is best done in the early spring or late winter before new growth comes out. If you wait later, you will be risking losing that season's blooms. Spirea are very very durable and they will take most anything. I have sometimes cut it back from 4' to 1'. Shape it to mimic its natural shape, mounded. The general rule for pruning trees and shrubs is never remove more than a third of the plant. But spirea do not read the rule books and you can break this one!

As far as I know, the above applies to all types of spirea.

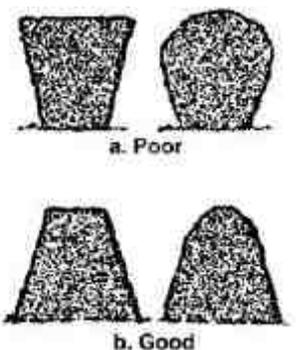
How to keep your spirea looking beautiful:



Spireas should be trimmed at least twice a year. One trimming should occur right after blooming in the spring. Trimming will not only keep the shrub nice and full, but it will stimulate new growth on the plant. Many spireas have a bright, red new growth that at times can be almost as ornamental as the flowers themselves. Lightly trimming you spirea after blooming will extend this shrub's season of interest. The second pruning should occur in late fall or early spring. This pruning will usually be a more drastic trim and you will remove more plant material from the plant than during the spring/summer prune previously discussed.

To get a nice round shrub, a rope can be tightened around the plant and using your hedge shears, cut straight across the top. When you remove the rope, you will be left with a perfectly round spirea bush. If you don't have rope, cut flat across the top with your hedge shears. Then, turn your hedge shears over (so that they are angled downward) and trim around the sides of the plant. This is an easy way to a professional-looking prune.

The general rule to remember when pruning spireas is that they love to be pruned. Frequent light trimmings will benefit you and your plant more than less-frequent, more drastic prunes. Keep these thoughts in mind and you will avoid the dreaded "Ugly Spirea"



The Garden Center will be closed



We wish all our customers a safe and



Our July to September store hours will be

Monday - Saturday 8 am to 5 pm

Closed Sundays.



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Coming in July

Watch your email for date.