FORDE NURSERY

Puffer Fish® Hydrangea - New For 2026!

Hydrangea paniculata 'NCHP1'



Puffer Fish Hydrangea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

An attractive compact variety that provides an abundance of large, puffy, conical white flowers at the ends of the branches over an extended period; flowers start out white and mature to pink towards fall; benefits from a regular pruning regimen

Ornamental Features

Puffer Fish Hydrangea features bold conical white flowers at the ends of the branches from early summer to early fall, which emerge from distinctive chartreuse flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green deciduous foliage. The serrated pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.



Puffer Fish Hydrangea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Puffer Fish Hydrangea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Puffer Fish Hydrangea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Puffer Fish Hydrangea will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub performs well in both full sun and full 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Puffer Fish Hydrangea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

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