



Botanical Name: *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Queen of Hearts'
(NA 79748; PI 668118)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5-8

Development: Queen of Hearts was developed from a 1998 hybridization of oakleaf hydrangea cultivars 'Snow Queen' and 'Pee Wee'. It was released by the U.S. National Arboretum's shrub breeding program in McMinnville, Tenn. in 2013. 'Queen of Hearts' was selected from the same population that produced 'Ruby Slippers'.

Significance: 'Queen of Hearts' was selected for its large, upright inflorescences and heavy flowering. It flowers approximately 7 to 10 days later than standard oakleaf hydrangea cultivars, and inflorescences remain attractive after those of other cultivars have faded.

Description: **Height and width:** 6.5 feet tall and 9 feet wide at 10 years.
Habit: Medium, deciduous, rounded shrub.
Foliage: Dark green in summer; mahogany-red in fall.
Flowers: In early summer, 'Queen of Hearts' is covered with 9-inch-long inflorescences that are held upright above the foliage. Flowers open white and then slowly age to a deep pink color.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings root in 4 to 6 weeks under mist with 4000 ppm IBA.

Landscape Use: As a specimen plant, in the shrub border, or mass planted in large areas.

Availability: For a list of wholesale nurseries propagating this plant, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705. Margaret.Pooler@ars.usda.gov