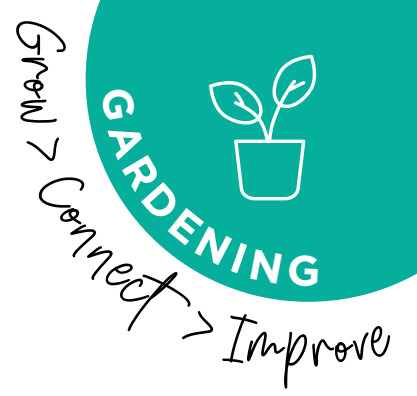




## Week Two

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### It's May – that means time to prune back your hydrangeas!

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It's always been a rule in my mum's family that the weekend after Mother's Day, it's time to prune the hydrangeas!

A wonderful source of information is the story by Peter Cundell on Gardening Australia in July 2005. Peter says,

“Happiness is pruning. But total happiness is pruning hydrangeas, especially when they need it. Start low and remove the very old, and big stuff. Look for the old wood. It means that's where the new wood will start. Look closely for the big powerful buds, which will send up new canes and be absolutely fantastic.



The new buds are formed in alternative pairs. Pick the fattest pair and prune to just above them. Do this all over the plant. The further you prune, the bigger the flowers will be. If you prune too hard, you won't get any flowers but you will get beautiful foliage.

By the way, every one of the pieces, especially the young bits, can be shoved into the ground. In fact they're so easy to strike, that if you grab one and drop kick it, it will take root before it hits the ground. That's how easy they are to form new plants. But leave all the big, fat buds for masses of new, huge flowers. I'm feeling so much better, and I know for a fact that this hydrangea is now feeling delirious with joy.”

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/pruning-hydrangeas/9426206>

Just reading that made me smile like a hydrangea 'delirious with joy.'

*Marie* **Happy gardening everyone!**