

2001

DELAWARE  
NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION  
*Plant of the Year*

This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association's Seventh Annual Plant of the Year selection.

The 2001 Herbaceous plant is Sedum 'Matrona'. The 2001 Woody plant is Hydrangea quercifolia, oakleaf hydrangea. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

### *Sedum 'Matrona'*

This cultivar was named from a hybrid seedling that appeared in the garden of Ewald Hugin of Germany. This plant does everything in its power to provide you with maximal color in the garden. Succulent gray-purple foliage, often with a rosy pink margin, adorns the 2' shiny burgundy stems that are topped in late summer with large pale pink flower heads. Preferring full sun, and well drained to dry soil, this upright sedum makes a superb component of a perennial border!



Photo by Rick Darke

### *Hydrangea quercifolia*

This native shrub, commonly known as the Oakleaf hydrangea, is easy to grow, has multiple seasons of interest and boasts problem-free maintenance. The cone-shaped inflorescences of oakleaf hydrangeas reach as much as 12 inches in length and are produced in early to mid summer. They start out white to creamy white and will fade to an aged pink by late summer and into fall. In the fall, inflorescences turn brown and the oak-shaped leaves turn brilliant colors from orange to red to burgundy. The plants almost glow in the autumn landscape. Peeling orange bark provides winter interest and the attractive stems provide a good backdrop for spring bulbs.

Oakleaf hydrangeas prefer light shade and adequate soil moisture but can survive in full sun with plenty of moisture and in dense shade. Plants are vigorous growers and can become 4 to 8 feet tall. Since there is considerable variation in plant size, it is a good idea to use a cultivar to get the size and shape you desire.

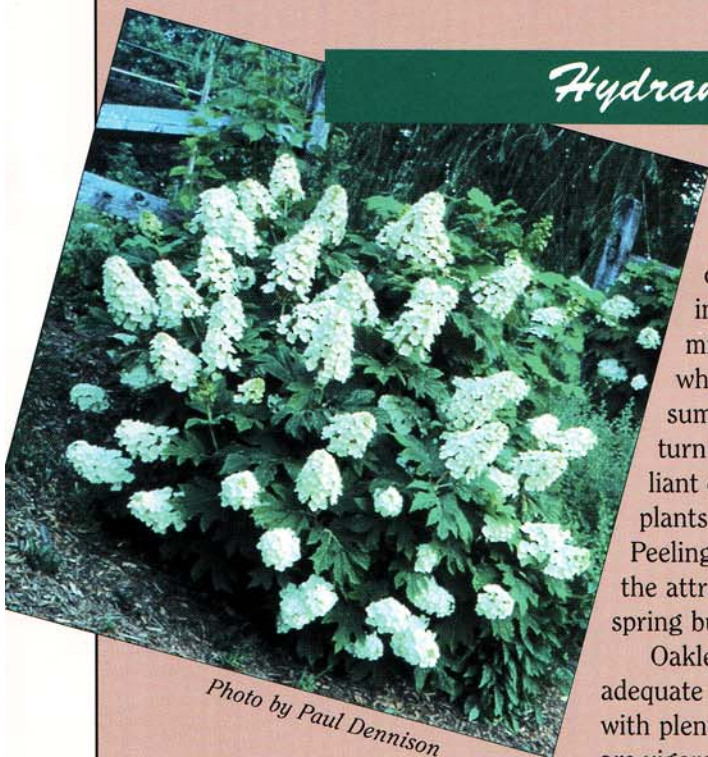


Photo by Paul Dennison

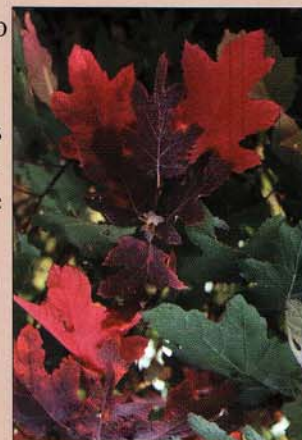


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