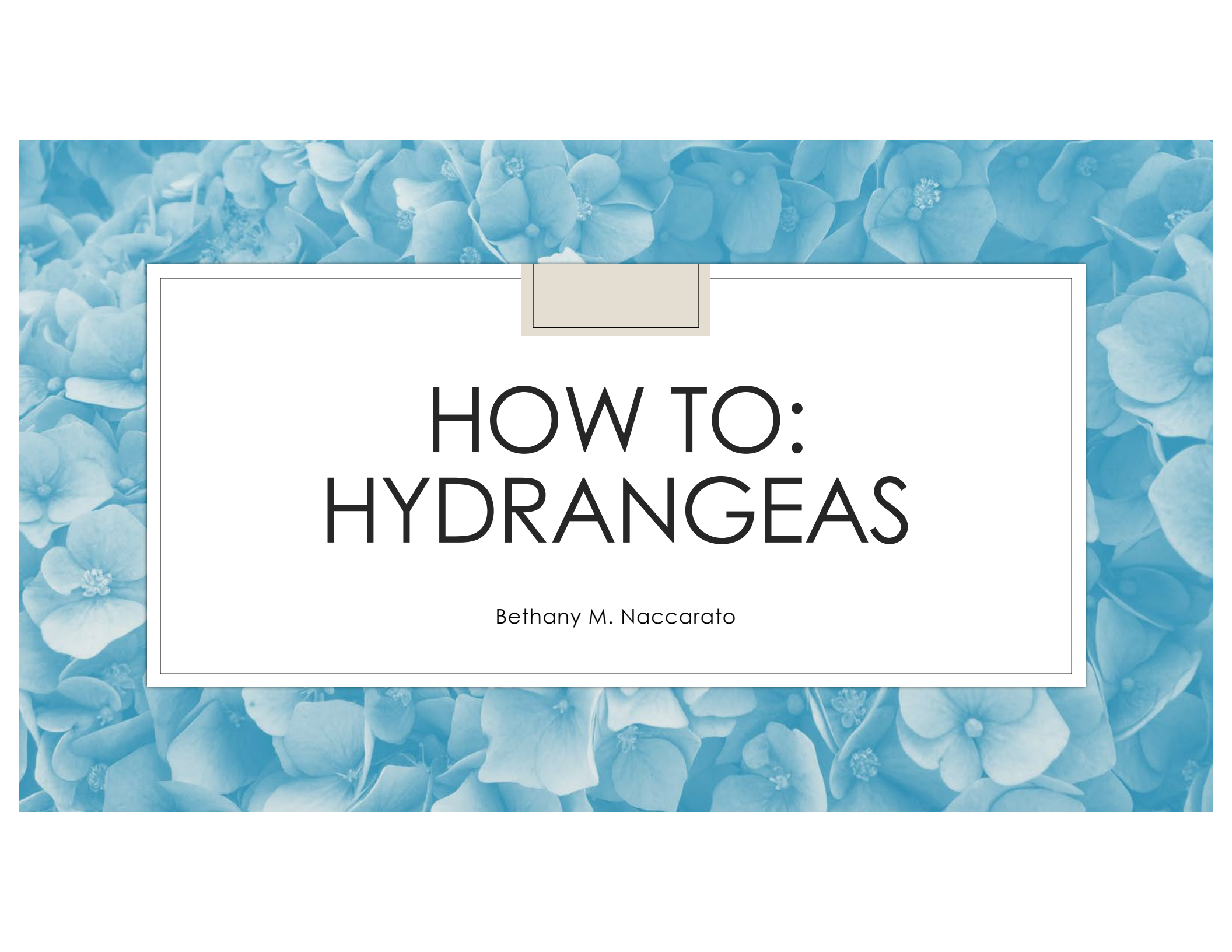


The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of light blue hydrangea flowers. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is centered on the slide. At the top center of this box is a small, tan-colored rectangular tab. The title "HOW TO: HYDRANGEAS" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font within the white box.

HOW TO: HYDRANGEAS

Bethany M. Naccarato

A little about me...

- Owner of Blueacre Garden
 - Gardening Educator
 - Focus on spreading accessible gardening information
- Certified Master Gardener (CT) and tax attorney
- Michael's Mom



Most Common Hydrangeas

- Hydrangea Macrophylla ("big leaf;" commonly: endless summer, let's dance)
- Hydrangea Paniculata ("panicle;" commonly: limelight)
- Hydrangea Quercifolia ("oak leaf")
- Hydrangea Arborescens ("smooth;" commonly: Annabelle, Incrediball)
- Hydrangea Petiolaris ("climbing")
- Hydrangea Serrata ("mountain")
- Hydrangea Aspera ("rough leaf")
- Hydrangea USHYD0405 ("cascade;" commonly: fairytrail) **NEW!**

- Stems from previous growing seasons that survived over the winter and leafed out this year

Hydrangea
Basics:

Old Wood

- New growth during the current growing season
- Grows out of the “old” wood
- Becomes “old” wood NEXT year

Hydrangea
Basics:

New Wood

- Stems from prior growing seasons that did not survive the winter
- May appear lighter brown in color
- Partially or fully desiccated

Hydrangea
Basics:

Dead Wood



Dead wood

New wood

General Rules

- Dead wood can be removed at any time
- Deadheading can be done at any time
- Transplanting & new planting is best in fall, followed by spring



Hydrangea
Macrophylla

aka

“Big Leaf”

Macrophylla

- Can bloom on old wood or old and new wood (most common)
- Common varieties: endless summer, blushing bride (now replaced by Dreamcloud), Nikko Blue, Twist and Shout

- In partial sun
 - Can tolerate full sun if watered well in cooler zones
 - Needs some sunlight to bloom
- Well-drained soil
 - Supplemental watering on hot days is a must
- With the least amount of pruning necessary
- Acidic soil pH

Macrophylla Is
Happiest...

Macrophylla – Color Change

- Endless Summer
- Nikko Blue
- Pop Star
- Blue Enchantress
- Big Daddy
- Cityline® Mars
- Cityline® Venice
- Cityline® Rio
- Let's Dance® Starlight
- Let's Dance® Rave
- Let's Dance® Rhythmic Blue
- Let's Dance® Diva!
- Let's Dance® Blue Jangles®
- Tuff Stuff
- Tiny Tuff Stuff

To Change the Color You Need...

- Time
- Presence (or absence) of Aluminum in soil
- pH tester OR soil test
- Garden Sulphur
- Garden Lime

Change Your Hydrangea Flower Color

pH between 5.2-5.5
+ aluminum in soil

pH between 5.6-5.8
+ some aluminum in soil



pH between 5.8-6.2

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pruning a Macrophylla plant. The hand is holding a pair of pruning shears and is cutting a stem. The plant has large, green, serrated leaves and small, purple, clustered flowers. The background is a blue patterned border with white leaf and circle motifs.

Macrophylla Pruning – Late Summer

- Applies to both old and old and new bloomers
 - Immediately after first round of blooming (mid-July through Mid-August)
 - When you see nascent buds on the green growth, **pruning is over!**
 - Only prune to reduce size and shape of plant
 - Avoid pruning young plants for 1-3 years after planting
- 
- A circular inset image showing a close-up of a Macrophylla stem. The stem is green and has several small, purple, clustered buds at the leaf axils. The leaves are large and green with serrated edges.



Hydrangea
Paniculata

aka

"Panicle"
"Grandiflora"
"PeeGee"

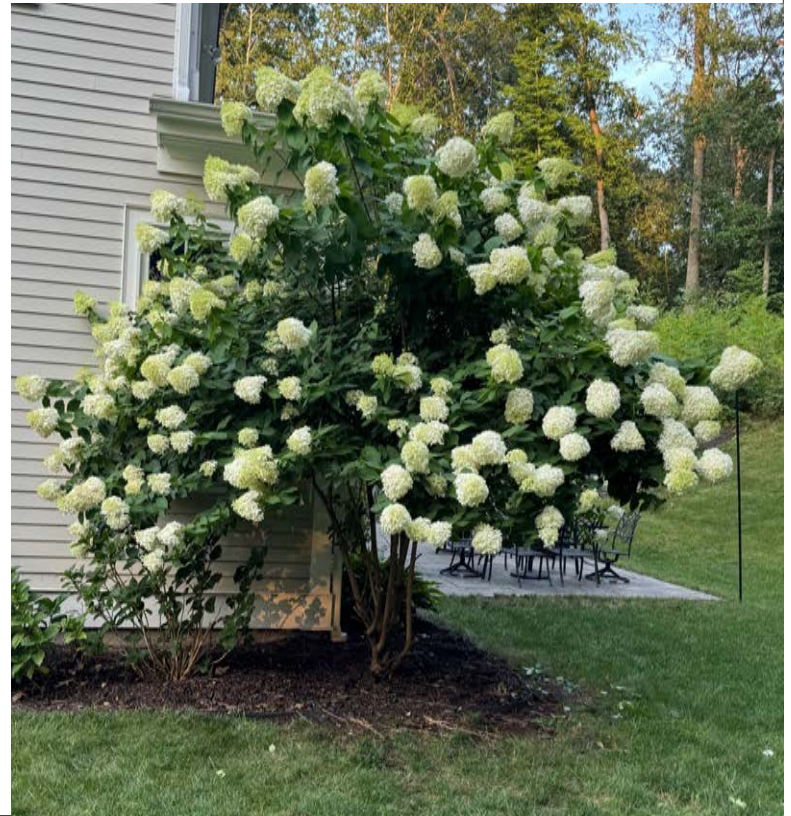
Panicle - Bush



- Limelight, Pinky Winky, Bobo, Quickfire, Vanilla Strawberry, Phantom, Puffer Fish
- Bloom on new wood
- Cone-shaped blooms

Panicle - Tree

- Panicle bush plants that have been trained to grow into a tree shape
- Limelight, Pinky Winky, Bobo, Quickfire, Vanilla Strawberry, Phantom, Puffer Fish
- Bloom on new wood
- Cone-shaped blooms



Paniculata – Groundcover **COMING SOON!**



© Plantipp-BV®
Groundbreaker® will thrive in a container...



© Plantipp-BV®
...and in a border or swathes of groundcover

- Debuted at the RHS Garden Show in 2025 (released in UK Garden Centers in July 2025)
- 100 days of flowering
- No taller than 15"
- US has similar small plants without the full blooms with "tidbit" varieties

Photos from RHS Garden Show

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/new-plants/hydrangea-groundbreaker-blush>

Panicle Is Happiest...

- In full sun
 - Will get leggy with too much shade
- Well-watered
- Well-drained soil

- Remove cracked/damaged branches
- Remove downward pointing branches and branches touching the ground
- Remove ~1/3 of each stem
- If you have droopy branches, prune sparingly

Panicle
Pruning – Late
Winter/Early
Spring

Panicle Tree Pruning – Late Winter/Early Spring

- Remove cracked/damaged branches
- Remove downward pointing branches
- Remove any stems growing out of the trunk
- Remove ~1/3 of each stem, going back to a leaf bud





Hydrangea
Arborescens

aka

“Smooth”

- In full sun
 - Will tolerate some afternoon shade
- Away from deer habitats
- With supplemental watering
- Pruning in late winter/early spring

Smooth is
Happiest...

- Some are prone to spreading (Annabelle, I'm looking at you)
- Cut above a leaf node on 45 degree angle



Smooth
Hydrangeas

- **Before** the plant has leafed out in mid February - mid March

- Prune to 12" above the ground IF:

- You like bigger flowers

- Prune to 18" above the ground IF:

- Your hydrangea is prone to drooping after heavy rain and not picking back up once dried out

- You prefer smaller flowers

Pruning – Late Winter

- Smooth: little to no serration on heart-shaped leaves. Matte color/texture
- Macrophylla: Serrated edges, visible leaf veining, lighter green color

Smooth vs. Macrophylla Hydrangea





Hydrangea serrata

aka

“Mountain”

Mountain Hydrangeas

- Very cold hardy + best resistance to harsh winters
- Bred from hydrangeas native to mountains in China and Japan
- Soil pH affects colors

- Partial Shade
 - Narrower leaves are more prone to wilting
- Acidic soil pH

Mountain is
Happiest...

Mountain Pruning

- Old and new wood bloomers
- Prune sparingly
- Immediately after blooming in mid-summer



Hydrangea
petiolaris

aka

“Climbing”

Climbing Hydrangea

- Blooms on Old Wood
- Early season blooms (late May to early June)
- Need trellis support to adequately climb

- Sparingly in mid-late summer months
- Cut right above leaf bud

Climbing Hydrangea Pruning

Climbing Is Happiest...

- With supportive trellising or other material to climb
- Morning sun and afternoon shade
- Little to no pruning



Hydrangea
Quercifolia

aka

“Oak Leaf”



Oak Leaf Hydrangea

- Blooms on old wood
- Attractive bright red foliage in fall
- Leaves look like oak leaves
- Commonly: Gatsby Pink, Ruby Slippers, Snow Queen

- In full to partial sun
 - 5+ hours a day for optimal blooms and fall foliage colors
- Rich, Moist Soil

Oak Leaf
Hydrangea is
Happiest...

- Prune sparingly!
- Mid-late summer (mid July-mid August)

Pruning – Mid-Late Summer



Hydrangea
aspera

aka

“Rough Leaf”

- Rare in USA (native to China)
- So-named for its velvety fuzzy leaves

Rough Leaf
Hydrangea



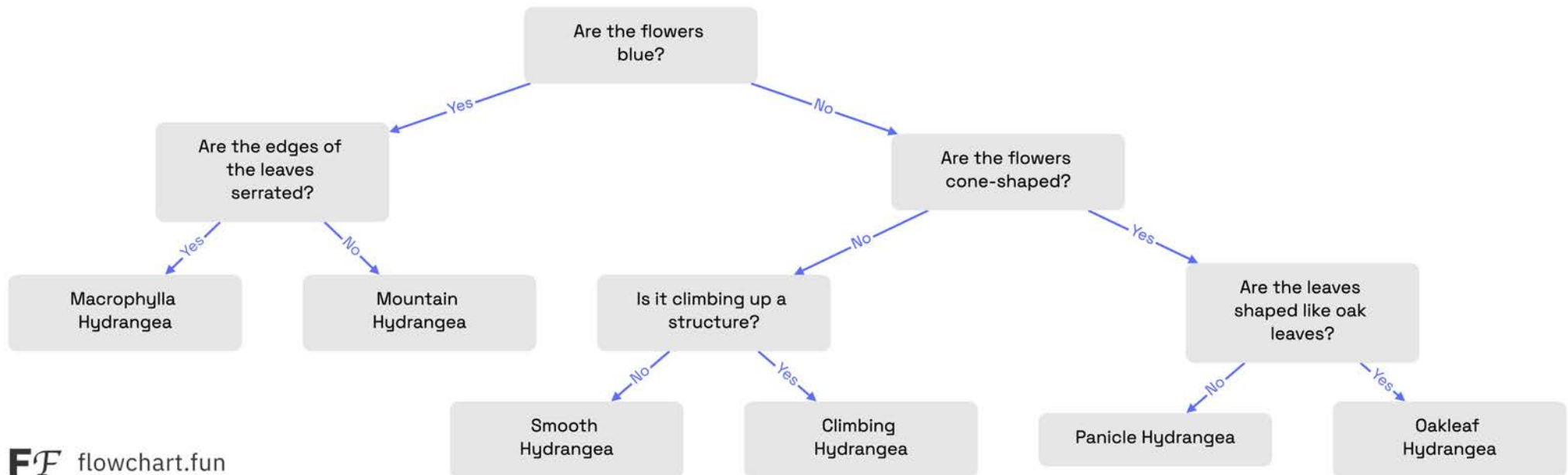
Cascade
hydrangea

NEW

Cascade Hydrangea

- New release!
- Proven Winners “Fairy Trail”
- Blooms early in season and continuously blooms
- Excellent in containers/window boxes

Which Hydrangea do I have?





Dealing with Deer

- Deer Repellant
 - PRO: no pesticides, doesn't harm foliage
 - CON: reapplications necessary, smells
- Motion Activated Sprinklers
 - PRO: chemical free
 - CON: expensive
- Fencing (5+ ft tall)
 - PRO: works by keeping all creatures away
 - CON: ugly