



HYDRANGEAS

PLANTING & CARE

This native beauty can create a beautiful and wonderful landscape! Hydrangeas are deciduous shrubs meaning they will lose their leaves during winter. They are grown for their beautiful domed or flattened summer flowers. Use the flowers in arrangements and enjoy these big, beautiful blooms in the landscape. There are several Hydrangea varieties available.

MOP HEAD

The most popular Hydrangea grown in home gardens and landscapes. Most mopheads grown today are blue or pink. A few varieties are white.

OAK LEAF

Oak leaves feature large panicles of flowers with stunning foliage.

LACE CAP

These Hydrangeas are named for their flattened flower clusters surrounded by larger blooms, which give them a lacy appearance.

PLANTING STEPS FOR HYDRANGEAS

We suggest planting Hydrangeas in early summer or fall.

Plant in well drained soil.

Dig the hole twice the width of the root ball and three quarters the depth.

Remove the soil from the hole and mix thoroughly with 1/3 *Nutri-green* and 1/3 *perlite*.

Plant even with the soil level. Fill in soil mixture around the root ball up to the top, but never place soil over the root ball.

Pack the soil lightly and add 2-inches to 3-inches of mulch covering about a three foot circle around the shrub with mulch.

Water thoroughly after planting. Place an open hose end near the tree and let water run out at a slow trickle for 30 – 45 minutes on a 5-6 foot tree. (Less on smaller trees, more on larger trees).

Make sure the soil drains well, as over-watering or allowing the plant to sit in water can harm its root system.

After watering for the first time, pour two gallons of *Ferti-lome Root Stimulator*, mixed according to the label, around the root ball.

Problem Solving with Hydrangeas

Pruning

Pruning a Hydrangea can be tricky as you want to make sure you do not prune off any of next year's blooms. We suggest pruning in late June or July (no later than August) after the plant has bloomed; this will help prevent harming any buds that have been set for next year. Remember, removing dead blooms or blooms for an arrangement is not the same as pruning and this can be done without harming the plant.

Watering

One inch of water per week either by rainfall or irrigation is recommended, and of course, mulching helps conserve water loss and cools the root system.

Planting Location

Most prefer moderate shade, but make sure it gets at least half a day of sunlight. They can tolerate high sunlight as long as the plants are watered consistently and kept moist.

Transplanting

Transplant a Hydrangea when it has become dormant and has lost all of its leaves (late fall or winter).

Pest and Disease

Hydrangeas are virtually pest and disease free. Occasionally, however, they can suffer from powdery mildew.

An interesting fact about Hydrangeas:

The pH content of the soil will determine the color of the flower. You can even change the color of your Hydrangea by simply varying the pH levels. A highly acidic soil will produce blue flowers. Often this color can appear so deep, it may even appear to be more purplish in color. Soil with a lower level of acidity will often produce pink or white flowers.

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