



PLANT CARE SERIES

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Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas are some of the longest blooming shrubs available. They produce some of the biggest, most beautiful flowers in the garden. They bloom from early summer through the fall. Some even provide a beautiful palette of fall colors.

EXPOSURE

Full sun to part shade, depending on type

PLANTING

If planting a pink-blooming macrophylla-type hydrangea, we recommend 2 cups of **Garden Pearls Lime** be worked in with **Gardner & Bloome Flower & Rose Planting Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and watering in with **Bonide Root n Grow**. If planting a blue-flowering macrophylla, we recommend using **Gardener & Bloom Acid Planting Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and watering in with **Bonide Root n Grow**.

TYPES

Definition of a couple of terms:

- 1) Old stems are stems that have been on the hydrangea since the summer before current season.
- 2) New wood are stems developed on the plant during the current season.

Macrophyllas

- Bloom on old stems
- Produce flower buds on the hydrangea around August through October for the following summer bloom
- Flower types:
 - 1) Mop heads: large ball-shaped flowers in colors ranging from light blue to deep blue, and from pink to red, and white
 - 2) Lace caps: flat florets with lacey-looking flowers that are small in the middle and larger around the outside edge
- Prefer morning sun with afternoon shade, but will tolerate full sun—although there maybe some leaf scorch
- Can handle as little as 2 hours of direct sun or bright sun shade
- Soil pH can influence color of their flowers
 - 1) For blue—use **Aluminum Sulfate** (on established plants) at a rate of ¼ cup per foot of growth:
 - Apply in spring when you see the first leaf
 - Again 6 weeks later
 - One more time in the fall, around September
 - 2) For pink—use **Lime**
 - Once in the spring, around leaf swell
 - Again in the fall, around September

Ever Bloomers

- Examples: Endless Summer, Blushing Bride, Twist n Shout
- Bloom on old as well as new wood
- Sun to part shade

Please turn the page for more information. →



Panicle or PeeGee

- Known for large white flowers in late summer and fall
- Flowers will often turn pink or red as they age
- Make great cut flowers
- Bloom on new wood
- Full sun to part shade

Smooth Hydrangeas (aborescens)

- Example: Annabelle
- Blooms on new wood
- Full sun to part shade
- Can be pruned to ground in the spring.

Quercifolias (Oak Leaf)

- Oak leaf-looking foliage
- White flower panicles changing color with age
- Exfoliating bark
- Full sun

FERTILIZING

Fertilize in the early spring at leaf break. Use **Dr. Earth Rose & Flower Fertilizer** for pink-blooming hydrangeas and **Dr. Earth Rhododendron Fertilizer** for blue-blooming hydrangeas. Fertilize again in the fall or if you notice foliage turning a light green. **Note: high nitrogen fertilizer can inhibit bloom.**

PRUNING

Pruning is not necessary. Removing dead stems is the only pruning that must be done for the health of the plant, and this can be done at anytime. Dead blooms can also be removed at any time. You can prune to reduce size of plants.

Macrophyllas

Prune in the fall or in the spring after the hard frosts are over, and you see leaf bud swell. Prune to the first leaf node of this years growth. Remember, most macrophylla hydrangea produce flower buds around September to October for the following summer bloom, so radically pruning can comprise flowering abilities.

Paniculatas or Pee Gee

Prune in spring—blooms on new wood.

Smooth

Prune in spring—blooms on new wood.

Oak Leaf

Prune in spring—blooms on new wood.

MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches around the base of your hydrangeas. This will help with moisture control, weed control and supply some nutrients to your plant.

WATERING

Water deeply 2 or 3 times a week deeply depending on your soil.

CHECK LIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrangea(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acid Planting Mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Rhododendren Fertilizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardner & Bloome Rose & Flower Compost | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Rose & Flower Fertilizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Sulphate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide Root n Grow | |