



Hydrangea Care

Most Hydrangeas flourish in partial shade/sun. They require sun for bloom, but do not like the excessive heat of full sun. If placed in full sun, be prepared to water every two or three days in drought conditions. Hydrangeas will tell you when they are thirsty by drooping, but will respond quickly to a deep watering.

Hydrangea arborescens cultivars

Grandiflora, Annabelle

You can cut some flower heads in July and hang them to dry for indoor arrangements. Otherwise, leave all the flower heads on through winter to catch the snow and add interest to your landscape. In spring, usually late March or early April, cut each stem back to just above a pair of sprouting leaf buds. We generally recommend that they be cut back to between 9" - 18." This will deter drooping flower heads in July. When cut back this far, the hydrangeas will grow to be 3-4' tall for the season.

Fertilizing is not required, but if you do, it can be an all-purpose fertilizer, applied sparingly. We recommend gentle, effective Daniels™ plant food, sold here.

Hydrangea macrophylla cultivars

As sold here: Endless Summer, Blushing Bride

These are cultivars bred for hardiness. Other macrophyllas, like those in florist shops, will not survive our winters. These two will develop continual blooms throughout summer on both "old" and "new" wood. This means that, even if the plant dies back to the ground in the winter, it will bloom on the new growth that appears at its base. To preserve the old growth for a larger plant, protect it over winter. Cut back to 6" - 9" in the late fall or early December. Cover the plant with newspaper, then pile leaves or evergreen boughs on top to insulate. In late March, remove and discard this covering.

Endless Summer will have blue blooms if soil is acidified. In our alkaline soils, it will tend toward purple or pink. Use fertilizer for acid-loving plants, or add a Hi-Yield product such as Soil Sulphur, Copperas, or Aluminum Sulphate (less desirable). There are reports of success in getting blue blooms by regularly adding coffee grounds to the mulch around the plant.

Hydrangea paniculata cultivars

Limelight, Little Lamb, Pink Diamond, Quick Fire, Tardiva, Unique, White Moth

These are woody shrubs, sometimes in tree form. They require very little pruning. Leave flower heads on through the winter for added interest, or remove, if you so desire. Do not cut these back in the spring, but merely shape-prune and remove spent flowers, as necessary.

Fertilizing is not required, but if you do, it can be an all-purpose fertilizer, applied sparingly. We recommend gentle, effective Daniels™ plant food, sold here.

Hydrangea quercifolia cultivars

Pee Wee, Alice, Snow Queen, Sike 's Dwarf, and Little Honey

Oak leaf hydrangea is woody and should not be cut back, but only pruned to shape in late winter or early spring. Its coarse texture lends character if left to grow as it will. Trim off spent blooms in late fall or early spring.

Fertilizing is not required, but if you do, it can be an all-purpose fertilizer, applied sparingly.