

# HYDRANGEAS

- **Height:** Varies by variety from 2-3' to 6-8'. Hydrangeas are deciduous shrubs that lose all or most of their leaves in the winter.
- **Exposure:** In the hot valley area, plants must be protected from the hot sun. A bright northern or eastern exposure is best or where the plant can be protected from the sun and hot drying winds.
- **Watering:** Hydrangeas must be kept evenly moist, especially in summer.
- **Soil:** Hydrangeas can be grown in most well-amended soils. If trying to acidify the soil to adjust blossom color, use a peat moss or an azalea/camellia type planter mix.
- **Pruning:** Hydrangeas flower mostly on previous year's growth. It is best to cut out older branches that have already flowered and leave newer younger stems. If you shear plants completely in the late winter, you may be removing the flowers for that year.
- **Drying the flowers:** Hydrangeas make excellent dried flowers. Cut flowers when the flowers begin to fade from their peak blossom color and hang upside-down in a dark, cool (but, dry) area.

## ***FLORIST HYDRANGEAS***

As early as late winter, nurseries begin stocking Hydrangeas that have been grown in greenhouses for use indoors. These are usually available through spring. These "florist" hydrangeas are best grown indoors in bright, indirect light or in a protected patio area. They must be kept evenly moist or the flowers and foliage will wilt. When the hydrangea has finished blooming, cut off the old blossoms and plant outdoors in a northern or eastern exposure or where the plant will be protected from the hot sun and drying winds.

## ***OUTDOOR GROWN HYDRANGEAS***

Hydrangeas that have been "outdoor-grown" are available later in spring and begin blooming later than the "florist" types because they have not been forced to bloom in a warm greenhouse. These plants are suitable for immediate planting outdoors in the same conditions mentioned above.

## ***ADJUSTING SOIL Ph TO CHANGE FLOWER COLOR***

Hydrangea flower color can change depending on the pH of the soil they are planted in. To encourage blue flowers, applications of aluminum sulphate may be necessary in alkaline soils. For pink or red flowers, superphosphate can be applied in acidic soil. Treatment must begin in late winter or early spring to be effective. Repeat treatment as recommended on the label of the product used.

# HYDRANGEA VARIETIES

Variety	Height	Flower Color
All Summer Beauty	To 4'	Mophead. Large pink flowers spring-summer. Prolific bloomer.
Amy Pasquire	To 4'	Mophead. Dark Pink flowers
Ayesha	4-5'	Bold, glossy leaves. Globular flowers in the shape of tiny spoons similar to waxy blossoms of lilacs. Pale pink to light blue depending on soil pH.
Big Rose Leaf	To 6'	Mophead. Large pink flowers
Blue Billow	To 6'	Lacecap. Steel blue lacecap blooms. Dense and compact grower.
Blue Danube	To 4-5'	Mophead. Blue flowers
Bluebird	4-6'	Lacecap. Blue to purple florets.
Button's 'n Bows	Compact 3-4'	Mophead. Deep pink edged white
Glowing Embers	To 4'	Mophead. Deep rose/red flowers
Kuhnert	5-6'	Mophead. Rose pink flowers.
Lanarth White	3-4'	Lacecap. Ring of white florets surround a large cluster of pink to blue fertile flowers
Lemon Wave	4'	Lacecap. Yellow and green leaves.
Mariesii	To 6'	Lacecap. Large flat pink headed flowers
Mariesii Variegata	4-6'	Lacecap. Strongly variegated foliage. Blue lacecap flowers when grow in acidic soil
Merritt's Blue	Compact habit	Mophead. Deep blue in acidic soil, lightens to a pretty light blue in alkaline soils
Merritt's Supreme	4-5'	Mophead. Lilac to deep purple in acidic soil, bright pink in alkaline soil. Study plant and prolific bloomer.
Nikko Blue	4-6'	Mophead. Abundant, showy blue, globe-shaped flowers in acidic soil.
Pia, Pieta (Pink Elf)	2 ½'	Mophead. Dwarf shrub with bright carmine-red to pink flowers. Handsome dark green foliage.
Pink 'n Pretty	4-6'	Mophead. Abundant pink flowers . Boldly branched, mounded form.
Pink Lace	To 2-3'	Lacecap. Pink flowers
Preziosa	3-4'	Hybrid. Purple-tinged foliage in fall. Large cream, red-lilac flowers.
Red 'n Pretty	4-6'	Mophead. Abundant dark pink flowers Boldly branched, mounded form.
Red Star	4-5'	Mophead. Very dark pink
Royal Purple	To 5'	Mophead. Deep purple blooms
Sister Teresa	5-6'	Mophead. White flowers
Sunset	To 4'	Mophead. Orange/red flowers
Teller Red	To 5'	Lacecap. Large leaves. Huge red clusters.
Tokyo Delight	To 6'	Lacecap. White florets. Pink flowers.