

Hydrangea



Hydrangea macrophylla
Hydrangea paniculata
Hydrangea quercifolia

Hydrangea are hardy woody shrubs 3'-6' in each direction. Hydrangea prefer shaded, moist, acidic soils.

Soil: Hydrangea need consistently moist, well-drained soil. Hydrangea perform better in slightly acidic soils. Hydrangea grow well in higher pH soils but are more susceptible to illness.

Water: Hydrangea need at least an inch of water a week. Direct watering, such as a drip hose is most efficient, but a turf sprinkler will work. Hydrangea leaves will wilt if not enough water is provided. However, during 80-90 degree days, Hydrangea leaves will still wilt. When the temperature cools, leaves should return to normal.

Planting: Remove the Hydrangea from the container, loosen the roots, and plant level, or slightly higher than the container medium. Saturate with water. Plant Hydrangea in shady areas such as the north, or east sides of buildings, under pine trees, or along wooded areas.

Color/Fertilizer: Color, pink or blue, is dependent on the amount of aluminum absorbed by the plant. Low pH soils have aluminum readily available, and flowers show blue. High pH soils don't have an absorbable form of aluminum, and flowers show pink. Adding Aluminum Sulfate to higher pH soils will give the plant an absorbable form of aluminum and show blue flowers. Adding lime to lower pH soils will make the aluminum less absorbable, and flowers will show pink. Hydrangeas need fertile soil; fertilize in late winter or early spring, before leaves show. Slow-release fertilizers are recommended.

Pruning: Pruning is a personal preference and depends upon which Hydrangea is at hand. Most Hydrangea *macrophylla* set flower buds on old wood during late summer or fall. Pruning the stems back to 18-20" will create a more compact shrub and will increase flower production. Prune in fall, if possible. Pruning has to occur before leaves form in early spring. Removing old flower heads is a cosmetic prune. No new shoots or flowers will develop from this pruning. Pruning is not mandatory. Leaving the tips of each stem will produce a flower at the tip of that stem the next season, assuming no damage has occurred. New wood blooming Hydreangea *macrophylla* and *Hydrangea paniculata* can be pruned in the spring. *Hydrangea quercifolia* should be pruned after flowering in late summer or fall.



Highland Moor
Woody Plant Cut-Stem and Propagation Nursery



Highland Moor
Woody Plant Cut-Stem and Propagation Nursery