

# Hydrangeas

*Everything you need to know about Hydrangeas*

Hydrangeas are growing in popularity and for good reason. So we've put together the ultimate guide for how to care for hydrangeas. This includes choosing the correct hydrangea for your space, planting, watering, fertilizing, pruning and more. This guide has the basic information needed to get started.

## Choosing the correct Hydrangea:

First, you need to choose the correct hydrangea, based off of what your needs are and what your space provides. How much sunlight does the location have? What type of soil do you have? How big of blooms and what color of blooms do you want? All hydrangeas will bloom and grow well in morning sun and afternoon shade.

## When to water Hydrangeas:

Hydrangeas need moist but well drained soil to thrive. Instead of trying to stick to a "rule" for watering hydrangeas, it is better to water so the soil is moist at all times, but not too wet. Each type of hydrangea requires different levels of water. The location of the plant will also determine how much the plant needs. Typically, you will be able to tell when the plant needs water by looking at the foliage and notice the leaves wilting.

## How to prune Hydrangeas:

Mophead hydrangeas do not ever need to be pruned. You only need to remove dead branches. Different types of hydrangeas need to be pruned using different methods. To determine what method to use, search for your specific variety on the internet. It is important to prune the correct way, so you do not cause the shrub to have less blooms.

## Choosing the correct location:

Second, we need to plant the hydrangea to ensure the plant stays healthy and thrives in the location you picked out. Choose a location so that the hydrangea can reach its full size without pruning. Plant the hydrangea in well drained soil. Make sure to not plant the hydrangea too deep in the ground. Plant at the same depth as the in the pot it comes in. The best time to plant hydrangeas are early summer or fall. If you want to transplant a hydrangea, do so once the plant is dormant and has lost all leaves in late fall or winter.

## How to fertilize Hydrangeas:

Specialty formulated hydrangea fertilizer is available, however it is not necessary. Commonly found all-purpose 10-10-10 fertilizer is the easiest to use. It should be applied in spring or early summer. Not in the fall as that is when the plants are preparing for dormancy, and the fertilizer could trigger new growth which isn't healthy for the plants. It is important to remember, that adding fertilizer will not cause a hydrangea to bloom. Fertilizer will not change the color of the blooms. It's much easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than it is from blue to pink. Changing the hydrange from pink to blue requires you to make the soil more acidifying around the plant. To change the color from blue to pink requires you to make the soil more basic around the plant. White hydrangeas cannot change colors.