



2310 W St. Rt. 55 TROY
937.335.5550

www.andysgarden.com

Hydrangeas

Location

Even if you plant your hydrangea at the most perfect time, it still won't survive if you plant it in the wrong location. Hydrangeas grow best if they are planted where they are sure to receive morning sun and afternoon shade. The further north you live, the more sun the plant will need and tolerate. Hydrangeas prefer areas with rich, well-draining soil, and they like to be kept damp. While shade is important for this plant, DO NOT plant your hydrangea under a tree where it will have to compete for water.

When To Transplant

In late fall, Hydrangeas will lose all of their leaves. This is when the plant will become dormant until next spring. During this time, it is safe to transplant it. The best time to transplant your hydrangea is very late fall, or winter, before the ground freezes. Also, don't be alarmed if your hydrangea comes back a different color after you transplant it; changes in the soil's pH could affect the color of the blooms!

Soil Acidifier

Espoma soil acidifier contains all natural minerals that can be used to correct the problem of alkaline soil. Benefits of the soil acidifier include turning hydrangeas blue, lowers soil pH, and promotes dark green growth. Apply the acidifier in the Spring to lower the pH level. Spread the soil evenly around the plant out to the drip line and water well. With this product, your hydrangeas are surely to turn out with a rich blue color and deep green leaves to follow.

When To Prune

Hydrangea pruning should be consistent but gentle, unless the plants are old and overgrown. Consistent pruning throughout the blooming season is a great idea for keeping them neat. Cutting away any old or spent blooms to encourage new blooming is another great tip, however if your hydrangea doesn't have old or spent blooms, its recommended to leave it alone.

Aggressive pruning depends on the hydrangea type. For Mophead, Lacecap, or Oakleaf hydrangeas, prune in the early summer to avoid cutting off the next season's blooms. Cut away any dead or damaged wood, and trim a third of the remaining canes down to the ground to revitalize the plant. Lastly, prune *particulata* types of hydrangeas with these same methods in fall, but only when the plants are 5 years old or older.



When To Plant

The lifetime of a hydrangea is early summer to late fall. If you plant in the early summer, you will need to water often help establish the roots. Watering less often, but for longer periods of time is better than short burst of water every few hours. However, don't over water the plant and let the roots sit in wet, soggy soil; this will cause the roots to rot and thus your plant will die.

Planting in late fall is a bit risky, especially if you live in the north. New roots don't grow deep enough to avoid freezing. They can survive indoors in the winter, but keep them where they can get to at least six hours of sun daily and then continue to move them outside on warm days for a while.