



Top Tip

Try watering with rainwater since mains hard water can affect the flower colour, turning blue flowers mauve or pink.

PLAN133260003



Aftercare

- Water regularly from Spring to Autumn in the first year after planting.
- Top dress with compost and fertiliser every Spring.
- Prune in Spring - see overleaf for details.



Hydrangea

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www.plants2gardens.com
customerservice@plants2gardens.com
Twitter: @teamp2g

gardening guide

Unpacking Instructions

Remove plants from the box immediately upon receipt. Remove the plastic bag from around the base of the plant /pot. These hydrangeas can be planted out immediately. Water before planting. If you do not wish to plant immediately ensure they are well watered.

Planting out

Hydrangeas are popular garden shrubs with delicate heads of flowers in shades of pink, white or blue. The Mophead and Lacecap Hydrangeas are most well-known for their ability to change colour in different soils. They prefer sun or partial shade.

- Water the plant thoroughly before you start.
- Dig a hole that is at least 10cm (4in) wider and deeper than the pot the plant is growing in. Dig or fork over the bottom of the hole to loosen the soil.
- Enrich the soil you have dug out with equal quantities of well-rotted garden compost, planting compost or soil conditioner. A handful of continuous release plant food added at this stage will provide a steady source of plant nutrients that will feed your plant for the first season of growth. Place a 5cm (2in) layer of the enriched soil in the bottom of the planting hole.
- Remove the plant carefully from its pot and if possible gently tease some of the roots away from the edges.
- Place the rootball in the planting hole, so that the plant is at the same depth as it was originally growing, and gradually fill in the space around the rootball with more enriched soil, pressing down gently as you go.
- Tread down gently around the plant to ensure firm planting.
- Water in well.
- Mulch the soil to preserve soil moisture and keep down weeds.

Planting out in a container

- You will need a large pot as a smaller pot will dry out too quickly. For best results place in a saucer of water from April to September. Water sparingly throughout the Winter.
- Use a good quality potting soil with organic matter, not ordinary garden soil. Plant the Hydrangea at the same level that it was in its original pot.
- Feed plants regularly from May to September using a high potash liquid feed such as Tomato Food..

How to Prune

Dead blooms on Mophead Hydrangeas can, in mild areas, be removed just after flowering but it is best to leave them on the plant over Winter to provide some frost protection for the tender growth buds below. Remove the dead flowerheads in early Spring, cutting back the stem to the first strong, healthy pair of buds down from the faded bloom.

Lacecaps are hardier, and the faded flowerheads can be cut back after flowering to the second pair of leaves below the head in order to prevent seed developing, which saps energy from the plant

Pruning established Mopheads and Lacecaps

Cut out one or two of the oldest stems at the base to encourage the production of new replacement growth.

Pruning established Hydrangea paniculata

Although the only essential work is to remove dead wood in Spring, this species flower more prolifically when pruned back annually to a framework of branches. Each Spring, cut back last year's stems to a pair of healthy buds to maintain a permanent framework. To produce larger flower panicles on strong, upright branches, hard prune to the lowest pair of healthy buds, creating a low framework of branches. This usually results in a pruned framework of no more than 15-25cm (6-10in) high but, if more height is required, cut to about 60cm (2ft) tall.

