

# ABIDE A WHILE

GARDEN BOUTIQUE



## Tip Sheet: Hydrangea

Hydrangeas are a beloved deciduous shrub that are known for their showy flowers in the spring.

### WHERE & WHEN TO PLANT

- Hydrangeas prefer part shade but no afternoon sun. Choose a location that provides early morning sun or the dappled light of a shade tree. Full shade is not recommended.
- It is very important to choose a location where your hydrangeas can reach its full size without pruning.

### CARE

**WATERING:** Prefers moist, well-drained soil. For new plantings, follow our Watering Guide.

**FERTILIZE:** Our favorites include Espoma Holly-Tone Plant Food (4-3-4) and Osmocote. Note: Do not fertilize after August. Fall is the time for hydrangeas to begin preparing for dormancy. Fertilizing at this time may stimulate new growth that will be too tender to withstand the winter.

**PRUNING:** You want to know what species of Hydrangea you are working with. You must know if your plant blooms on “Old Wood” or “New Wood.”

“Old Wood” are stems that have been on the hydrangea since the summer before the current season. Ideally, they should be pruned in the summer, after flowering. Refrain from prying after August.

*This applies to Mopheads, Lacecaps (macrophyllas - usually pink or blue) and Oakleaf hydrangeas (white blooms, leaves shaped like oak leaves).*

“New Wood” are stems that developed on the plant during the current season. These types of hydrangeas bloom on new wood. These types of hydrangea are fun to grow because they are determined to bloom every single year, no matter how they are treated.

*This applies to Endless Summer Hydrangea varieties.*

The only time they cannot be pruned is in the summer when they are preparing to bloom. Paniculatas (PG/Limelight types) can be pruned in the fall, winter or spring. However, it is not necessary to prune them every year. We suggest trimming out crossing branches and those that do not contribute to an attractive form whenever necessary.

**MAINTENANCE:** To avoid fungus and disease issues, it is good practice to remove fallen leaf debris and best to avoid overhead irrigation.