



LANDSCAPE
GARDENING
SERIES



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Hydrangeas

All hydrangeas will bloom and grow well in **morning sun and afternoon shade**. This is especially true of the commonly grown *Hydrangea macrophylla*. *Macrophylla* hydrangeas are the blue and pink [mopheads](#) and [lacecaps](#).

No hydrangea will do well in **HEAVY shade**, such as under a shade tree. The blooms will be sparse and will not develop fully.

If your landscape is **mostly sunny** (and hot), you may wish to grow the [PeeGee](#) ([paniculata](#)) hydrangea, which thrives in all day sun as long as it receives adequate moisture. PeeGee hydrangeas actually need at least 5 hours of sun per day to bloom well.

The [Oakleaf hydrangeas](#) will also grow in sun or shade, with full sun being fine here in the PNW. The leaves on the Oakleaf hydrangeas will "color up" best in the fall if they receive some sun.

VERY IMPORTANT: Choose a location where your hydrangea can reach its full size without pruning. For normal sized hydrangeas, expect the plant to reach at least 4 ft. X 4 ft. Hydrangeas are almost impossible to keep pruned to a smaller size than they ultimately wish to grow.

Plant in well-drained soil! If soil is heavy, add mature compost.

Do not over water, esp. in clay soil. This can lead to root rot.

Do not plant too deeply. Plant at the same depth the hydrangea was planted in the pot.

Plant in early summer or fall.

Transplant a hydrangea when it has become dormant and has lost all of its leaves (late fall or winter).

WHITE HYDRANGEAS can NOT be changed to pink or blue by the grower. (The Almighty sometimes adds pink and red to blooms as they age).

One can rarely change the intensity of a color (how strong or pale the color is). The intensity develops for a number of reasons: the heredity of a particular hydrangea variety, weather conditions (hot or cold, humid or dry), health of the plant, and possibly other natural factors. Fertilizing hydrangeas once or twice a year may result in a little more saturated color simply because the health of the plant may be improved.

A few varieties of hydrangeas tend more toward the pink or the blue range of colors, but will not retain even this color if soil conditions are not right.