



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SMOOTH HYDRANGEA CARE

LIGHT

Smooth hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*), including Annabelle and related selections, suit partial sun or light shade. More sun is tolerated where soil moisture is dependable. Avoid deep shade, which can reduce flowering. Allow the cultivar enough space to form a broad, leafy clump.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and maintain even, moderate moisture during establishment and active growth. Water the root zone during dry spells before repeated wilting occurs. Plants in sun need extra checking. Moist soil must drain freely; do not keep roots in stagnant water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Set the root ball at nursery depth in moisture-retentive, well-drained soil. Use a wide planting hole and leave room for new basal shoots. Mulch around the shrub to conserve moisture, keeping the stem bases uncovered. Avoid crowding with thirsty tree roots.

FEEDING

Use a modest spring feeding if soil conditions warrant it, following label rates. Excess nitrogen can encourage weak stems. White or pink flower color is determined by the selection, not by adding lime or acidifier. Test the soil before making amendments.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers develop on new growth, so prune in late winter or early spring. Remove dead or weak stems and shape as needed. Hard pruning can produce larger heads on stems that bend after rain; retaining a sturdier framework may help support the display.

HELPFUL TIPS

Support heavy-flowered selections early if necessary. Cultivars differ in height, stem strength and flower form, so follow the label. This routine differs from bigleaf and oakleaf hydrangeas. Watch for leaf spots or wilt, and check drainage before assuming yellow foliage needs extra watering.