



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

PANICLE HYDRANGEA CARE

LIGHT

Panicle hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata*) grow in full sun to partial sun. They tolerate more sunshine than most hydrangeas, provided moisture is reliable. Allow room for the cultivar: dwarf selections and large Limelight or PeeGee types have very different mature sizes.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and check the original root ball regularly through establishment. Keep the root zone moderately moist during dry weather, especially as flowers develop. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling or standing water. Sunny sites and containers need closer attention during heat and wind.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant with the top of the root ball level with the surrounding soil in a wide planting hole. Use moisture-retentive, well-drained soil. Apply a light mulch over the root zone, keeping it away from stems. Avoid low spots that remain saturated.

FEEDING

If needed, apply a modest shrub fertilizer in spring according to the label or soil-test results. Avoid excessive nitrogen and late feeding that promotes soft growth. Soil acidifiers do not turn these flowers blue; flower colors change with cultivar and maturity.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on the current season's growth. Prune for structure in late winter or early spring before leaves emerge, removing dead, weak or crossing branches. Annual hard pruning is unnecessary. On tree-form plants, preserve the trunk and main crown; remove unwanted shoots below the crown.

HELPFUL TIPS

Check cultivar hardiness and mature size before planting. Do not use the old-wood pruning routine of bigleaf hydrangeas. Retained dried flower heads provide winter interest. Watch for leaf spots, aphids and persistent wilting; check soil moisture before adding more water to an already wet root zone.