



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA CARE

LIGHT

Oakleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) grow in sun to partial shade, with afternoon protection helpful in a hot site. Give the large, oak-shaped leaves room to develop. Compact selections and large shrubs need different spacing. Dense shade may limit the cone-shaped flower display.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and maintain moderate moisture while roots establish. During prolonged dry weather, soak the root zone and allow excess water to drain. Avoid constantly saturated soil. Check newly planted shrubs carefully even when a mature neighboring plant appears drought-tolerant.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in organic, well-drained soil. Keep mulch away from the stems and leave room for the cultivar's width. In Maine, choose a site suited to the label's hardiness, with shelter from severe winter exposure. Good drainage is especially important.

FEEDING

Apply a modest spring feeding only where needed, following the label or soil-test recommendation. Avoid repeated heavy applications that encourage excessive growth. Oakleaf flower color does not become blue through acidifying treatments; white heads naturally age toward pink and tan.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on old wood. Prune lightly, if needed, immediately after flowering and preserve healthy branches for next year's buds. Remove confirmed dead or damaged wood in spring. Do not cut the shrub to the ground each fall or use panicle-hydrangea pruning rules.

HELPFUL TIPS

Fall foliage and peeling mature bark add interest even when flower buds suffer winter damage. Winter survival and reliable flowering are separate considerations in cold sites. Watch for leaf spots, mildew, aphids or mites. Check moisture and drainage before responding to wilt with additional irrigation.