



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA CARE

LIGHT

Bigleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) prefer morning sun and afternoon shade or bright, dappled light. Protect them from hot reflected sun and drying winds. Give mophead and lacecap selections room to reach their labeled width without repeated pruning to fit a small space.

WATER

Water deeply at planting and keep the root zone evenly moist while establishing and flowering. Check soil before watering: temporary afternoon drooping can occur even in moist ground. Avoid both repeated drought and waterlogged roots. Containers require frequent checks in warm weather.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in organic, moisture-retentive but well-drained soil. Mulch the root zone while leaving stems clear. Choose a sheltered position suited to the cultivar's hardiness. Flower buds can be injured by winter cold even when the roots survive.

FEEDING

Feed modestly in spring if needed, following label directions. For suitable pink or blue cultivars, soil chemistry and available aluminum influence color. Test soil before applying color-changing products and follow the product label. White flowers will not become blue simply by acidifying soil.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve living stems: most selections form flower buds on old wood. In spring, wait for buds to open before removing confirmed dead wood above live growth. Avoid hard fall pruning. Reblooming selections can also flower on new shoots, but preserving old wood protects the early display.

HELPFUL TIPS

Winter bud protection may improve flowering in Maine; ask for cultivar-specific advice for an exposed site. Lack of bloom can reflect cold damage, pruning or deep shade rather than poor feeding. Watch for leaf spots and mildew. Mountain and panicle hydrangeas have separate guides.