



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

MOUNTAIN HYDRANGEA CARE

LIGHT

Mountain hydrangeas (*Hydrangea serrata*) suit morning sun with afternoon protection or light, dappled shade. These usually compact shrubs favor cool roots and shelter from hot, drying conditions. Check the cultivar label for size and hardiness, since selections differ in growth and reblooming ability.

WATER

Keep the root zone moderately and consistently moist through establishment and dry summer periods. Water deeply at soil level rather than repeatedly wetting leaves. Check containers frequently. Avoid both severe drying and standing water; reliable moisture does not mean a permanently saturated planting hole.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in fertile, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Leave room for mature branching. Mulch the root zone lightly, keeping stem bases clear. Choose a sheltered site where winter winds and late frost are less likely to damage vulnerable flower buds.

FEEDING

Feed modestly in spring only where needed, following fertilizer rates. Suitable cultivars may show pink or blue flowers depending on soil chemistry and aluminum availability. Test soil before using color-changing amendments. More fertilizer cannot restore flower buds lost to cold or pruning.

SEASONAL CARE

Most flowers develop from buds on the previous season's stems. Preserve live branches and wait for spring growth before removing confirmed winter damage. Avoid hard fall pruning. Reblooming selections may also flower on new growth, but still benefit from retaining healthy old wood.

HELPFUL TIPS

Mountain hydrangeas can benefit from winter bud protection in Maine even when the shrub itself is hardy. Flowers and foliage may scorch in hot afternoon sun. Watch for mildew, leaf spots and aphids, and provide good airflow. Do not apply the hard-pruning routine used for smooth hydrangeas.