



Hydrangea Care Guide

WHAT YOU NEED TO PLANT SHADE TOLERANT HYDRANGEA

Plant in morning sun until noon or 1pm, with afternoon shade, or dappled light, to avoid leaf scorch. (macrophylla/big leaf, arborescens/smooth, climbing/petiole, oakleaf located in our shadehouse)

Soil Amendment– EB Stone Azalea, Camillia & Acid mix (30% EBS to 70% native soil)

Rich, well-draining soil with plenty of organic matter is the goal. Bark mulch to go on top of the soil for moisture retention of shallow roots.

Root Starter– Fertilome Root Stimulator or Espoma Biotone.

Only for Endless Summer (to lower soil pH from Idaho's 7 to 5.2-5.5 and promote **blue blooms**)

½ oz or 1 Tbsp aluminum sulfate to one gallon of water, apply to established plants during the growing season April–September. Espoma Soil acidifier or Hi-yield Soil Sulfur are excellent at lowering pH.



Fertilizing– Use slow release espoma for macrophylla 3x's during the growing season, arborescens (smooth) once in spring or fall, oakleaf once in spring and early summer. Espoma Azalea, Berry, Plant or Holly Tone are excellent slow release fertilizers for hydrangea. Fertilome Azalea, Camilla & Rhododendron food is also an option.

Watering– deep water when planted and regular watering throughout the growing season.

A good deep watering in **late fall and early spring** is recommended in Idaho.

Pruning Shade Tolerant Hydrangea:

Macrophylla bloom on old wood and finish flowering late in the growing season. In the early spring, prune out dead stems as needed after your shrub has leafed out. Endless Summer and Seaside Serenade series bloom on old & new wood and are more forgiving of pruning mistakes.

Seratta or mountain and climbing bloom on old wood and can be lightly pruned after bloom mid summer, July or August.

Smooth or arborescens hydrangea bloom on new wood, so you can cut them down to 15-18 inches from the ground or lower in the late fall.

Oakleaf bloom on old wood and can be lightly pruned after bloom in mid summer– July or August, before next year's buds are formed. Prune out dead wood when the shrub is fully leafed out.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PLANT SUN TOLERANT HYDRANGEA

This type is best planted in full sun for vigorous flowering (paniculata, located up front in sun shrub area; little lime, str. vanilla, etc.)

Soil Amendment– EB Stone Camilla & Acid planting mix or EB Stone Planting Compost (mix 30% amendment to 70% native soil)

Root Starter– Fertilome Root Stimulator or Espoma Biotone

Fertilizing: Spring and mid June; Espoma Azalea, Berry, Plant or Holly tone are excellent slow release fertilizers for hydrangea.

Watering: deep water when planted, regular watering throughout the growing season and a deep watering in **late fall and early spring** as hydrangeas need water to go dormant & wake up in spring.



Pruning Panicle Hydrangea that are sun tolerant:

Prune Hydrangeas that bloom on new wood **late fall or early winter once the plants have gone dormant or in early spring**. Next year's flower buds won't be formed until mid- to late spring the same year they bloom, so there is no risk of removing the buds if you prune in fall or early spring.