HYDRANGEA CARE (macrophylla, paniculata, smooth)

**SUNLIGHT:** Hydrangeas may be planted in full to part shade. If planted in full sun, they will need to be watered more frequently.

**SOIL pH:** Due to the soil pH, certain hydrangea varieties range from blue (acidic) to pink (alkaline). You can alter the color by adding amendments to the soil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Blue</th>
<th>Pink</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Sulfate (Lowers pH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lime (Raises pH)</td>
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*Note: adjusting the pH of the soil does not change the color immediately. Expect at least one full growing season before seeing results.*

When adjusting the pH, macrophylla and paniculata are the only hydrangea whose color may be manipulated. (i.e. Annabelle hydrangea remain white regardless of pH).

**FERTILIZING:** Hydrangeas benefit from a high phosphorous fertilizer applied in the spring, which increases flower production.

**PRUNING:** Hydrangeas fall into three main groups:

**Macrophylla (Mophead):**
- The most common variety
- Blooms on last seasons growth
- Pruning in the spring will result in fewer flowers
- Drastic pruning in fall will remove the next seasons buds
- Light pruning should be done after flowering to maintain size and shape
  (example: Endless Summer)

**Paniculata:**
- Blooms are a cone shape
- Pruning should be done in early spring
- Cutting back too much will eliminate flowers
  (example: Tardiva, Limelight, Pinky Winky)

**Smooth:**
- Blooms on new wood
- Can be pruned in fall or early spring
- Flower color un-affected by soil pH
  (example: Incrediball, Annabelle)

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1120 BULLIS ROAD, ELMA NY  14059    716-675-9000    WWW.SEASONALNURSERY.COM