Hydrangea cultivars


Pruning

Flowers on new wood (current season’s growth)

* H. a. petiolaris, H. arborescens, H. paniculata

Cut stems down to 12 inches in spring, when dormant. Prune out thin stems (no more than 1/3 of total growth)

Flowers on old wood (last season’s growth)

* H. macrophylla, H. quercifolia, H. serrata

Pruning best avoided. Deadhead in autumn. Remove dead branches in spring

Soil pH

Aluminum sulfate will lower the pH to 5.0-5.5 and produces BLUE flowers on *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata*. One tablespoon/gallon of water on plants at least 2 years old.

Dolomitic limestone will raise the pH to 6.0-6.5 and produce PINK flowers (same species). Work into top 2 inches of soil.

White flowers will not change to blue or pink (*H. arborescens, paniculata, petiolaris, quercifolia*).

Drying and dyeing

Allow to dry naturally on the plant (best)

Cut stems, strip leaves, stand upright in vase, w/ or w/o water

Flower heads covered with silica gel or 60:40 mix of white cornmeal:borax in a large plastic container. Cover and keep dark. Pour out the mixture after 4 days (silica gel) or 2 weeks (cornmeal:borax)

Mail sources:

White Flower Farm, Monrovia, Wayside Gardens, Jackson and Perkins, Proven Winners, American Hydrangea Society, Hydrangeas Plus, Nantucket Hydrangea

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