

# Caring for Hydrangeas

## DESCRIPTION

Hydrangeas are popular blooming plants grown for their small, star-shaped flowers, which are packed closely together to form rounded or pyramidal heads that are often up to 6 inches across.

## COLORS

Hydrangeas are available in white, pink, blue, lilac, green and red/brown as well as bicolor varieties.

## DECORATIVE LIFE

Hydrangea plants will remain in bloom for several weeks, with each flower head lasting from 15 to 20 days, depending on location and care.

## AVAILABILITY

These plants can be purchased year-round in many areas. They are readily available from February through May.

## CARING FOR YOUR HYDRANGEA

LIGHT Hydrangeas require high light levels to do well indoors. A sunny window is the best location, but avoid direct sun, which will fade or burn the flowers.

WATER Do not allow hydrangea plants to dry out because wilting will reduce longevity. Submerge the pots in room-temperature water until completely saturated, and then allow them to stand until all dripping has stopped. Do not allow the plants to remain in standing water, or root rot may result.

TEMPERATURE Hydrangeas like cool temperatures. Move the plants to a cool area at night (50°F to 60°F) to increase their decorative life.

HUMIDITY Mist the leaves occasionally.

REBLOOMING—OUTDOORS After the plants have finished flowering, move the pots outside and plant them, pots and all, into the ground where they will get full morning sun and light shade during the afternoon. Water the plants regularly, and fertilize them with a liquid fertilizer about every two weeks. For extra-large flower heads, allow only about three stems to develop. Remove extra shoots from the centers of the plants, and lift the pots occasionally to keep roots in the pots.

REBLOOMING—INDOORS Cut back the shoots after the plants have finished flowering so that two nodes, or pairs, of leaves are left on each shoot. Repot plants in a mixture of equal parts of soil and peat moss. Grow plants in south-facing windows.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Snails, slugs and aphids are the most common pests on hydrangeas. Remove any snails and slugs, and control aphids by washing the plants with an insecticidal soap.
- It is advised to keep hydrangeas out of reach of small children and pets.
- Hydrangea heads and florets are great for pressing, freeze-drying or air-drying.

*Adapted from [superfloralretailing.com](http://superfloralretailing.com)*

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