

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH409



### HYDRANGEA PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Hydrangea
- Scientific name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
- Native to southern and eastern Asia
- Deciduous shrub growing up to 6' in height
- Flowers are produced from early spring to late autumn
- Flowers grow in flowerheads at the top of long stems
- Hardy in zones 6-9

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full or partial sun
- Requires an abundance of moisture and very rich media

- Compost should be added to media before planting
- Fertilize in spring using an all-purpose plant food; do not fertilize during summer
- Spread a 2-3 inch layer of mulch underneath each plant

#### PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by softwood cuttings taken in June
- Take a 6-8'' cutting and strip the lower half of leaves
- Insert the cutting about 1'' deep in good potting mix
- Cover the plant with plastic until roots form, using stakes to prevent plastic from touching the plant

- Transplant to the garden or to a container after roots have formed
- Easily propagated from seed
- Germination requires light and takes 10-14 days at 70°F

### DISORDERS

- Aphids
  - Suck plant sap from newly formed shoots and leaves
  - Dislodge with a hard spray of water
- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe polygoni*)
  - White coating forms on undersides of leaves
  - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Rust (*Pucciniastrum hydrangeae*)
  - Leaves become spotted with yellow or brown pustules
  - Remove and destroy affected branches

### CONSUMER CARE

- Plants should be pruned immediately after flowering is complete, as next year's blossoms will form from the previous year's new growth
- Removing half of the original number of stems will produce clusters of larger flowers

- Flowers are different colors depending on the pH of the soil; acid soil yields blue flowers, alkaline soil pink flowers, and neutral soil white flowers
- Hydrangea blossoms make excellent dried flowers

### CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Hydrangea macrophylla*
  - 'All Summer Beauty': blue or pink flowers, depending on soil pH
  - 'Nikko Blue': flowers start with blue margins then turn full blue as they mature
  - 'Pia': pink to carmine red flowers

### References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrangea>  
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/Hydrangea.htm>  
<http://www.yardener.com/BigleafHydrangea.html>  
<http://www.hydrangeagardens.com/propagation.html>

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