

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in-ground in zones 7 to 10. Winter hardy when planted in a container and provided winter protection in zones 3 to 6.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 5 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	5 feet tall with a 3 foot head span.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	24 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Attracts butterflies. Color-changing blooms. Perfect for patios.

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reshipe the following shipping season.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

HYDRANGEA PATIO TREE



*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

HYDRANGEA PATIO TREE

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. Please remove the plant from the packaging right away and plant it as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around the plant and place it in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

In zones 3-6, we strongly suggest planting your hydrangea patio tree in a container in order to properly protect it from winter damage.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

4. Dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.
6. Stake the tree to allow strong roots to develop and to help keep it upright, particularly in windy conditions.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WEEDING

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

FEEDING

Feed your plant once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer for acid loving plants. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plant can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

PRUNING

Trim any dead, damaged or unsightly growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. To ensure your tree keeps its form, remove any growth that appears on the trunk below the main branches and any growth coming up from the root system.

WINTERIZING

In late fall, prepare your patio tree for winter by protecting the top (the most vulnerable part of the plant).

In mild zones (7-10), hydrangea patio trees can be planted in-ground and left outdoors for winter. If freezing weather is expected, wrap the plant in straw and cover it with burlap to protect the top. Cover the base with a 6-8 inch layer of mulch such as loose soil, shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw, or other organic material to protect the roots.

In colder areas (zones 3-6), hydrangea patio trees should be grown in containers and moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.

In spring, remove straw and burlap from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly performance.