

# • Bigleaf Hydrangeas

## characteristics

The flowers come in shades of purple, red, blue, or white. The flower clusters can be either dense, mop-headed hortensia, or the flatter looser lacecap types. Hortensia blooms look like pom-poms, blooming from late June through fall. The dry flower heads remain through winter unless pruned. The lacecap blooms are flat with open blossoms around the edges.

## care & maintenance

Bigleaf hydrangea blooms on "old wood" so blooms should be pruned after flowering in late summer and back to the nearest outward facing bud. Leave new shoots that have not bloomed uncut.

**SPRING:** Remove any dead wood. Fertilize with a slow release fertilizer. Apply aluminum sulfate to soil if blue color is desired. Hydrangeas will usually be late to break dormancy.

**SUMMER:** Prune stems that have bloomed when flowers have faded. (Rubber band and hang up side down for dried flowers.)

**FALL:** Mulch well to protect for winter.

# Bigleaf Hydrangeas



*BIGLEAF HYDRANGEAS* (macrophylla) feature glossy, green and oval leaves. The word hydrangea comes from hydro, meaning water.

## planting

Hydrangeas are well suited to most areas, however they prefer a little shade and soil acidity. They do best in rich moist soil. Treat any powdery mildew as a result of over moist conditions.

Bigleaf hydrangea color can be altered from pink to blue by adding aluminum sulfate to the soil. This is not an instant change, but will be accomplished over time by changing and keeping the ph level of your soil in the acid range.



*Pink Lacecap*

## hortensia varieties

- All Summer Beauty-Blue
- Glory Blue-Blue
- King George-Blue
- Nikko Blue-Blue
- Glowing Embers-Magenta
- Masja-Dark Red
- Pink Beauty-Pink

## lacecap varieties

- Blue Wave-Blue
- Pink Lacecap
- Tellers White

**Note:** Other varieties of hydrangeas (*paniculata*, *arborens*, *quercifolia*) are cared for in a manner slightly different than the *macrophylla* or *bigleaf* variety.



*All Summer Beauty-Blue*



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