



LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

Indoor Plant Care HYDRANGEA

Taxonomic Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Hydrangea Family
Herbaceous to Slightly Woody Plant

Each spring, the indoor or florist's version of the familiar hydrangea plant--sometimes still called hortensia instead--makes its appearance in stores and greenhouses. Hydrangeas with pink flower heads have been grown in neutral to alkaline conditions, while the blue-headed form has been treated with a soil acidifier. Most people treat the indoor hydrangea as an annual, and discard it once its long flowering period is over. In gentler climates, it can be planted outdoors after it blooms, but in the Chicagoland area it is not reliably winter-hardy. The species is native to Japan.

How to Care for Your Plant:

LIGHT: Bright indirect sunlight or cool morning sunlight is preferable. Placement in an unobstructed eastern or northern window is ideal.

WATERING: Take care to keep your hydrangea's soil evenly moist at all times. The plant should not stand in saucer water for more than thirty minutes.

FEEDING: During flowering, use a dilute, high-phosphorus (high middle number) fertilizer. Apply the food at half the concentration and feeding frequency listed in the product directions.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Hydrangeas like it cool, and will do best from 45 to about 65 degrees Fahrenheit.