

## Helpful Tips for Healthy, Gorgeous Forever & Ever® Hydrangeas



- Dig hole three times the width of the container.
  - Prepare backfill soil by mixing in peat for sandy soil or compost for clay soil.
  - Remove plant from pot.
  - If the roots are encircling the bottom of the pot, disturb them by cutting them in several places so they will branch out instead of continuing to go in circles.



- Place plant in hole with top of rootball even with ground level.
  - Fill hole with prepared soil.
  - Tap soil firmly to eliminate air pockets.
  - Form a 2" high soil berm around planting hole to retain water.



- Gently soak with water until saturated.
  - Add 1-2" layer of mulch.
  - Continue to water frequently at the root ball until plant becomes established. This may take most of the growing season for hydrangeas as they need a considerable amount of water to maintain healthy, lush foliage. Wilting leaves are a sign of insufficient water.
  - Once established, check soil weekly or more frequently for moisture. Do not allow to dry out.
  - Water well when needed.



### Pruning:

Little pruning is required other than removing spent flowers or to trim to desired size in early spring. Unlike other Hydrangeas, Forever and Ever can be pruned at any time during the year without compromising the blooms for the season. There are certain instances when pruning can be beneficial. 1) Remove all dead stems from the plant each year. 2) After plant is at least 5 years old, 1/3 of the oldest stems can be pruned down to the ground each year. This type of pruning will help revitalize the plant. Once all the old stems are removed, then shape the rest of the plant as desired.



### Bloom Color:

Forever & Ever Hydrangeas produce beautiful pink or blue blooms depending on soil pH. Alkaline soils will produce pink blooms, whereas acidic soil will result in blue blooms. To determine whether your soil is alkaline or acidic, ask your garden center professional or State Extension Agent how to obtain a soil test. If the pH is just right you may have both pink and blue flowers on the plant at the same time.

**Change from Pink to Blue:** Add aluminum sulfate according to package directions to lower the soil pH. Your soil will produce blue flowers at a pH level of about 5.2-5.5.

**Change from Blue to Pink:** Add dolomitic lime according to package directions to raise the soil pH. Your soil will produce pink flowers at a pH level of about 6.0-6.2.



### Fertilizer:

In spring apply a balanced fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, following package directions.



### Cut Flowers:

When you cut blooms for arrangements in June or July, you can cut them with long stems on Forever & Ever Hydrangeas. If you leave the dried blooms on the plant over the winter, prune them off in early spring. When pruning dried blooms, remove the flower head above the first set of buds on the stem. Doing this will give you more flowers during the first bloom of spring.