

Plant Selection

**New Varieties for Your Garden****Paniculatas**

- ★ *Proven Winners*; QUICK FIRE, LIMELIGHT, LITTLE LIME, FIRE LIGHT
- ★ *First Editions*; VANILLA STRAWBERRY, TICKLED PINK, WHITE DIAMONDS, STRAWBERRY SUNDAE, JETSTREAM, GREAT STAR
- ★ DHARUMA
- ★ PHANTOM
- ★ SILVER DOLLAR
- ★ BOBO
- ★ BOMBSHELL
- ★ SUMMER SWEET
- ★ FIRE & ICE
- ★ PINKY WINKY

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*Macrophylla & Serrata* Plant Selections

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ 'Endless Summer' ('Bailmer') | Blue/Pink MH              |
| ■ 'Blushing Bride'             | White Blush MH            |
| ■ 'Penny Mac', 'David Ramsey'  | Blue/Pink MH              |
| ■ 'Nikko Blue', Decatur Blue   | Blue/Pink MH              |
| ■ 'Tokyo Delight' *            | White/Blue LC             |
| ■ 'Mdm. Emile Moulliere'       | White MH                  |
| ■ 'Lilacena' *                 | Blue LC                   |
| ■ 'Blue Deckle' *              | Blue LC                   |
| ■ 'Grayswood' *                | White to Red LC           |
| ■ 'Blue Bird' *                | Pale Blue LC              |
| ■ 'Lenarth White'              | White LC                  |
| ■ 'Lady n Red'                 | Deep Blue to Deep Pink LC |
| ■ 'White Wave'                 | White LC                  |
| ■ 'All Summer Beauty'          | Med.Blue to Med.Pink MH   |
| ■ 'Preziosa' *                 | Pale Blue-Green to Red MH |

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\* *Serrata* Species**The Hardy Series**

## Fertilizing

### Fertilizing Hydrangeas

- Hydrangeas typically require low fertilizer addition
- Soil composition should be the primary 'fertilizing' concern
- 'Best' soil has an open, airy texture, is free-draining, and contains a high organic content. Soil testing can help
- A single fertilizer application at spring (April) pruning time is adequate
- For 'Blue' *macrophyllas*, use slow release fertilizers having low Phosphorus levels ( the P in the NPK ratio). Osmocote® or Sta-Green® 19-6-12 (3 to 4 month 'release' period) are good choices. Phosphorus counteracts aluminum uptake in the plant's system, low levels = better 'Blues'
- Osmocote® 14-14-14, Sta-Green® 17-17-17, MiracleGrow® 15-30-15 (water soluble) are good general garden fertilizers and work well for 'Pinks' and 'Reds'
- Fertilize 'White' *macrophyllas* and all other *Hydrangea* Species – *arborescens*, *paniculatas*, *quercifolias*, *anomalas* (climbers) the same as for 'Pinks' and 'Reds'

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## Bloom Color

### Bloom Color

- Mainly Applicable to Mophead *Macrophyllas* - it's the aluminum in the soil that makes our *macs* blue
- Bloom color can be substantially altered depending on soil pH – but should not be overdone; in the best sense it's 'Color Enhancement'
- Soil pH for 'Blues' = 5.0 to 5.6, for 'Pinks' = 6.0+
- Cultivars having pale bloom pigment - 'Nikko Blue' - can be readily 'adjusted' between pink and blue
- Medium to dark blue varieties - 'Mathilda Gutges' - can be decent pinks but are much more brilliant in their normal blue-purple hues via Aluminum Sulfate
- Pale to medium pinks and reds exhibit deeper tones with Lime application

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## Bloom Color

### Enhancing Pinks & Reds

- To change from blue to pink you need to change from an acid soil to a more neutral one
- Many garden soils in Eastern US are closer to neutral - 6.0 to 6.5 - and will produce pink blooms with no extra effort required
- Use dolomitic lime to raise pH, apply in the fall at moderate application rates – ½ to 1 cup per plant
- Thoroughly water the plant after application
- Aim for a pH of 6.0 to 6.3 - occasional soil testing is very worthwhile
- Check pH of your water source; lower levels may counteract your pinking effort
- Be patient; it may take a couple of years to 'sweeten' a strongly acidic soil

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## Bloom Color

### Enhancing Blues & Purples

- Using a soil acidifier will help lower the pH of your soil; target a range of 5.2 to 5.6 to produce rich blue flowers
- Aluminum sulfate is the preferred acidifier; can be applied 'dry' but 'safer' as a drench = 1 tablespoon / gallon
- Plant should be well-watered before adding any acidifier
- Apply early in the Spring to the base of the plant – 1/2 to 2 gallons / plant depending on plant size
- Check the pH of your water source. Municipal water suppliers may be buffering (raising) pH levels; adjust your bluing frequency to compensate
- Remember that concrete foundations and walkways tend to leach lime and raise the pH in the immediate area
- Applying elemental sulfur or iron sulfate works too; Sulfur works slowly, Iron more quickly but requires more of it
- Again, patience and persistence are often required to obtain the best blues

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