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Recipe for Success with Hydrangea

- Locate in areas that receive morning sun and afternoon shade. Underneath a deciduous tree is great because it will get sun in early spring and as summer approaches the foliage of the tree will provide dappled shade throughout the warm days.
- Plant them in the ground with 1 part **Gardner and Bloome Acid Rich Planting Mix** to 1 part native soil. In pots, use **MiracleGro Moisture Control Potting Soil** and make sure the pot is at least 18 inches in diameter.
- Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer such as 16-16-16 or **Max Sea All Purpose Fertilizer** starting in late winter through early spring. Follow the manufacturer's recommended amount and frequency. If the plant is in a container, we recommend 1/4 to 1/2 strength **Max Sea All Purpose Fertilizer** on a weekly basis.
- To keep your hydrangea blooming throughout the summer either choose some of the new varieties that bloom on new and old wood such as *Endless Summer* or cut off the old blooms just above the first set of leaves down and then feed with a **Max Sea High Bloom Fertilizer** (3-20-20).
- To turn your flowers blue, add 2-4 inches of peat moss on top of the soil each year. Also in late winter, water with 1/4 oz aluminum sulfate per gallon of water. Repeat at least five times at one week intervals. Do not sprinkle aluminum sulfate dry onto the soil surface of container plants. White Hydrangeas do not change colors and for pink use applications of lime.
- Pruning, if needed, is usually done by cutting the stem about 1/3 down and just above a leaf node. Drastic pruning is best done before the end of July on most varieties. This ensures that new growth will occur so the hydrangea will bloom next year. On varieties that bloom on new growth, you can prune lightly any time and still get reliable blooms.
- Leaf spots can occur particularly after Spring rains and in late summer. These spots are caused by a fungus called Ceraspora and do not affect the health of the plant. Older plants show less susceptibility.