



HYDRANGEA

Potted hydrangeas are generally purchased in the spring at Easter or Mother's Day when the blooms are beginning to show colour. They may be enjoyed as a decorative plant for several weeks indoors in a cool airy location. When the blooms are finished they may be pruned back and planted in the garden, or discarded.

Light

Keep hydrangeas in a bright location near a sunny window, but not in direct sunlight.

Temperature

Temperatures found in most homes are acceptable, but cool locations will greatly improve the lasting quality. Ideally, 60-65F or 16-18C at night is recommended. Also, remember that warm room temperatures will cause the blooms to fade quickly, so keep them cool for maximum enjoyment.

Water

Hydrangeas need frequent watering to keep the blooms standing erect. This is one of the few plants you can give a little water almost every day. Do not allow them to dry out as the blooms will wilt and may be permanently damaged. If you should notice the blooms looking a little limp, immediately place the pot in a sink full of slightly warm water and leave until the root ball is thoroughly soaked and the blooms have revived.

Fertilizer

During the blooming period, little fertilizer is needed. However, if you keep your hydrangea growing indoors, feed with a balanced soluble fertilizer in a modest dose, every two to three weeks.

Hydrangeas can be planted in your garden about mid-May and may be propagated from cuttings.

Hydrangeas, with their huge blooms of deepest blue through pale pink are most rewarding, both as an indoor addition to your décor or, especially, massed in clumps in your garden.