

Hydrangea paniculata



ZONE HARDINESS 3 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.9 – 2.0

Moderate to high fertilization is recommended: 150ppm – 300ppm N. Soil pH may not influence flower color, but proper soil pH levels must be maintained to avoid iron deficiency symptoms in the foliage.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 65 F Night – 72 F Day

Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement to assist in strengthening the stems.

WATERING

Moderate to moist: Water thoroughly without over-saturating, keep consistently moist but not wet throughout entire growth cycle.

TIMING

28 Liner to True 1 Gallon: 12 – 14 weeks with one plug per container. A planting date for spring finishing would be Week 6 for finishing in Week 18 – 20. However, planting a Supernova 28 in the spring can be difficult to provide the bulk and flower show needed to compare with nursery grown material. We recommend planting these in the late summer/fall and doing additional bulking and trimming prior to dormancy.

Quick Turn™ Liner to True 1 Gallon: 12 – 14 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 6 for finishing in Week 18 – 20. Planting a Quick Turn in Week 18 for finishing in Week 28 is also achievable.

Quick Turn Liner to 2 – 3 Gallon: 16 – 22 weeks with one plug per container. Planting a Quick Turn liner into a 2 – 3 gallon container and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Providing long days are present, vernalization is not needed for flowering. *Paniculata* will flower on new wood after a light prune. Allow at least 8 weeks after trimming for late summer/fall flowering.

PLANTING

Hydrangea paniculata perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium.

When growing shrubs, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as shrubs.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

During early spring forcing, plants should be given long days and as much light as possible. Poly grown plants will have lighter colored foliage. Crops should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Unspaced plants can stretch, require additional pruning, and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.

Light shading can be beneficial in the summer heat as *Hydrangea paniculata* can sometimes struggle and burn in really hot locations.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Frequent pruning in the summer and fall will produce a tightly mounding product the following spring which will have a more sturdy look and a longer shelf life at retail. If the plants don't sell during their flowering time, they can be shaped up as needed to remove spent flowers and improve their appearance for continued summer sales.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures, proper spacing and good air movement in an open environment can help control plant height, strengthen stems, and assist in finishing a high quality crop. During forcing in a greenhouse in early spring, the use of 5ppm Sumagic® (uniconazole) sprays can be helpful.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.

Hydrangea paniculata Continued



PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids and Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Hydrangea paniculata*. Scout and spray preventatively in April/May to prevent outbreaks in June and July when Spider Mites are more actively growing. We recommend implementing a good IPM program as well as early releases of Biological Control to help aid in the control of insect populations. Avoid using M-Pede® on *Hydrangea* because it can cause phytotoxicity.

OTHER TIPS

Any surplus 1 gallon containers can easily be bumped into 3 gallon containers in the summer for the following season's spring sales.

Soil pH does not affect bloom color on *Paniculatas*.

Hydrangea paniculata is the only *Hydrangea* that can be pruned into a tree form.

