



We hope you enjoy your new plants!

How to Care for a Nikko Blue Hydrangea Shrub *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue'

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Partial Shade (shaded at least 4 hrs/day) :: best site is with morning sun and afternoon shade

This shrub will grow to be 4-6 ft. tall & wide; Space 4 ft. away from other plants or structures

Thrives in loamy, well drained, organically enriched soil. Blooms are pink in alkaline soils and the blue flowers come when the soil is acidic, it is easy to raise acidity by applying a Hydrangea fertilizer as directed on package.

Versatile Plant for:

Cottage garden. Deciduous borders & hedges. Near the home foundation. In a patio pot.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 6,7,8,9

PLANT PREP: Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove tape and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

HOLE PREP: Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10" tall by 24-30" wide.

PLANTING: Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water well regularly, in the form of 1" of rainfall or irrigation per week (equivalent to a 5-gallon bucket full), often more frequently in extremely warm areas or if in a pot.

To get blue flowers, apply a Hydrangea fertilizer as recommended on package to raise the soil pH soil level; otherwise, the shrub could bear pink blooms.

Rarely needs pruning, however: Blooms on old wood. Next year's buds are set in late summer & early fall so if any trimming is necessary, it MUST be done prior to this. Any pruning after late summer runs the risk of removing next year's flowers. Dead branches can be trimmed any time.