

Learn 'n Grow Class at SummerWinds Nursery:

Living Gift: *Valentine's Day Hydrangea*

Living hydrangea is the perfect gift for a loved one or a special gift for your own collection. Hydrangea blooms in a wide range of colors – from pastels to woodland greens to pure white. Initially discovered in Japan, the name hydrangea comes from the Greek words "hydor," meaning water, and "angos," meaning jar or vessel. This roughly translates to "water barrel," reflecting the plant's need for heavy watering.



Hydrangea Care

Your beautiful hydrangea gift will be happiest if kept on a patio, away from direct sun. Remember to give your “hydor angos” plenty of water – never let it dry out. If you'd like to plant it in the ground – great! Planting a hydrangea in the ground is where it will truly thrive. Hydrangea loves dappled sun to full shade and heavy irrigation, especially in the hot days of summer.

Color-Changing Flower

Hydrangea is a dynamic landscape choice for many reasons but one incredible feature is its ability to change its flower color! Once your hydrangea is planted in the ground or a container, you can choose to alter its color to pink, purple, or blue.

First, you'll need to test the PH of your soil, which you can do with an at-home test or by calling your local county extension office. From there you can choose to make your soil more acidic (pH lower than 6.0) to produce blue or lavender-blue hydrangea coloring. For pink and red hydrangea blooms, you'll need to get your soil pH above 7.0 (this soil is known as “alkaline”). For purple to bluish-pink blooms, your soil pH will need to be between 6 and 7.



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