



Month-by-Month Hydrangea Care Guide

It can be hard to keep track of the monthly care requirements for hydrangeas. To help, we put together this monthly guide that lets you know when to fertilize, prune, and more.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Care Requirements</i>
March	<p>Panicle and Smooth Hydrangeas: Cut back to about 12–18 inches from the ground to encourage new growth and larger blooms.</p> <p>Bigleaf and Oakleaf Hydrangeas: Only prune to remove dead or damaged wood; avoid cutting back live stems.</p> <p>Watering: Begin watering if the ground has thawed and it's a dry spring.</p> <p>Fertilizing: Apply a slow-release balanced fertilizer</p> <p><i>Recommended Products:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Multi Purpose 10-10-10 •Holly Tone
April	<p>Continue your monthly fertilizer routine.</p> <p>Watering: Keep soil evenly moist, but not soggy.</p> <p>For Bigleaf Hydrangeas, use a fertilizer formulated for acid-loving plants (like Holly Tone) if you want blue flowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add garden sulfur for blue flowers or lime for pink flowers. <p><i>Recommended Products:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Espoma Soil Acidifier •Hoffman Blue Magic Aluminum Sulfate •Garden Lime
May	<p>If you have an established fertilizer schedule, apply another round now. Put down a 2-to-3 inch layer of shredded bark mulch around the roots to keep hydrangeas cool and moist in the coming heat.</p> <p>Watering: Increase watering as the weather warms up.</p> <p>Pruning: Remove any winter-damaged growth.</p>
June	<p>Administer another round of fertilizer. You may also need to begin providing supplemental water during June if the weather is hot and dry.</p> <p>Watering: Water deeply once or twice a week, depending on rainfall.</p> <p>Deadheading: Remove spent blooms from Bigleaf and Oakleaf to encourage continuous flowering.</p>
July	<p>You will begin to see the fruits of your labor in July, as the varieties that bloom on old wood peak; types that required a heavy pruning to blossom on new wood should also begin to flower.</p> <p>Watering: Water deeply, especially during hot spells. Avoid watering overhead to prevent fungal issues.</p>
August & September	<p>You shouldn't fertilize your plants after July.</p> <p>Watering: Keep soil moist but not soggy. Morning watering is best.</p> <p>Deadheading: Continue deadheading Bigleaf and Oakleaf varieties to extend the bloom period.</p> <p>Pruning: Avoid cutting back any stems, especially on Bigleaf and Oakleaf hydrangeas, since they are setting buds for next year.</p>
October	<p>Your hydrangea has most likely gone dormant at this stage of the year and needs little to no attention. Use October to top off your mulch to maintain a 2-to-3 inch layer for added winter protection.</p> <p>Watering: Continue to water during dry periods until the ground freezes.</p> <p>If you have an old wood blooming variety your work is done for the season since it will remain dormant through February. If you have a new blooming hydrangea variety that blooms on new wood, you can cut them now (or wait for March).</p>