



BLUE HYDRANGEA

Did it ever happen to you? You bought a gorgeous blue flowering Hydrangea from your local nursery and planted it in the perfect spot in your garden. The next season, you're anticipating those beautiful blooms once again only to be disappointed by muddy pink flowers... what happened?! Is the plant okay? Did you do something wrong? Oh no!

Well, I'm here to tell you that everything's fine. Your gorgeous blue flowering Hydrangea just needs a little help keeping that vibrant blue color, that's all. So breathe easy and keep on reading...

If you're a gardening novice or if you've never planted a Hydrangea before, you should know that you can alter the color of some Hydrangeas, but not all. Most blue Hydrangeas can be altered to produce pink blooms; it all depends on what you want and what type of soil you have. When it comes to Hydrangeas you may or may not have heard some mention of the term "pH levels."

Now I don't want to get too technical here, but I have to at least touch on this topic because of its importance with color alteration. First let me explain a bit... the pH scale ranges from 0-14, with 7.0 being neutral. Anything above 7.0 is considered alkaline. Anything below 7.0 is considered acidic. I'm not going to go into too much detail like what pH stands for and what it all means because this isn't chemistry class. All you want to know is how to keep your Hydrangea blue, right?

To maintain blue flower color, your soil needs to be on the acidic side. The reverse is true if you desire pink blooms (alkaline soil). One of the best ways to obtain blue flowers? Aluminum Sulfate. Aluminum Sulfate tends to lower the pH of the soil which is what you need for blue flowers. Master Nursery's Hydra Blue is one Aluminum Sulfate product that I would recommend. Another way to lower soil pH is to add organic matter like coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable peels, or grass clippings.

If your soil naturally contains aluminum and is acidic, the color of your Hydrangea flowers will naturally lean towards blue and purple shades. If you don't know what your soil type is and you're interested in finding out, contact your local Agriculture Extension Office for more information about soil testing. Now you don't have to get your soil tested if you don't want to... you can simply plant your Hydrangea and see what color the flowers are after a season or two and then alter your soil as needed to create the shade of flower you desire.

All of this information is the general knowledge you might need to successfully produce gorgeous blue Hydrangeas. If you happen to have a special circumstance that you need further assistance on, please don't hesitate to contact us at asktheteam@pennsylvaniapride.com.

