

Hydrangea Macrophylla

(*Hydrangea macrophylla*)

Propagation

Ideal Average Daily Growing Temperature

Night: 55 to 60°F (13 to 16°C) minimum

Day: 65°F (18°C) or greater. Temperatures above 85°F (29°C) will slow growth rate

Light

55% shade recommended in late Spring and Summer for compact habit from late Spring until Fall. Full sun from late Fall until Spring.

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless nursery shrub mix.

Irrigation

Maintain uniform media water levels for optimum growth. Do not permit full drying of media.

Fertilizer

A 9-month slow-release, high-quality fertilizer must be used. Aluminum sulfate is not needed for older plants, but can be used if deeper blue/magenta flower colors are to be emphasized in the finished product. For the growing of young plants in a 2 or 3-gallon container, we recommend 1 or 2 applications of aluminum sulfate in Spring, a couple of months before shipping.

Spacing

Can be grown pot-tight at initial potting and for cold protection in Winter. Spacing is needed for Spring crop during final growth before shipping to allow for a well-branched plant with good foliage and no stretch.

Pruning

Although L.A. Dreamin' is a reblooming variety, flower size and time can be significantly impacted if you prune incorrectly. For maximum flowering, do not prune after July or August of the previous year.

Crop Scheduling

This crop will follow a similar production schedule as other *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivars. Many factors can contribute to faster or slower growth rates. Please keep this in mind when developing your production

schedule.

Liner to #2 Nursery Container

Summer Potting: With a 2-gallon nursery container, finish is approximately 6 to 7 months (May/June potting saleable in Late April to June of the following year). Add an additional 2 months of growing time for a 3-gallon nursery container. Use a 2 or 4-in. (5 or 10-cm) liner.

Branded Container Sizes—Available through Nursery Supplies

#2 pot: 1 liner per pot

#3 pot: 1 liner per pot

Common Insects and Diseases

Aphids, snails, spider mites, mildew, Pythium, Phytophthora, Rhizoctonia

Garden Height: 5 ft. (1.5 m)

Garden Spread: 5 to 6 ft. (1.5 to 1.8 m)

USDA Hardiness Zones: 5 to 10