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ROSES and PLANTS

HYDRANGEA CHERRY EXPLOSION

Hydrangea macrophylla
'McKay' PP 28,757

SELLING FEATURES

- Heavy flower set with very large, individual, sterile flowers.
- Compact, mounded habit without the use of growth regulators.
- Hardy to zone 4.
- Very reliable bloomer. In-ground plants have died back to the ground and re-flushed with blooms in the same year.
- Deep pink flowers. Growing in acidic soil will change flowers to purple.



Fig 1: Finished container.



Fig 2: Flower color in acidic soil (left), flower color in neutral-alkaline soil (right).



GENERAL INFORMATION

LIGHT:	Morning sun, afternoon shade
MATURE SIZE:	3' h x 3' w
NATURAL BLOOM SEASON:	Spring–Summer
USDA HARDINESS:	Zone 4
USES:	Mass plantings, specimen, containers

PROPAGATION INFORMATION

TIME OF YEAR:	June–July
TYPE OF WOOD:	Semi-hardwood; Minimum 2–3 nodes
ROOTING HORMONE:	1000ppm IBA-talc or solution
TIME TO FULLY ROOTED:	4–6 weeks
TRIMS:	One trim minimum recommended in liner stage

FINISHING INFORMATION

MEDIA:	Standard Ornamental Nursery Mix
MEDIA PH:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For red to pink flowers: 6.0–6.5• For blue to purple flowers: 4.5–4.8<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ To achieve purple flowers: Apply Aluminum sulfate at suggested rate to maintain pH of 4.5–4.8. Conduct soil tests as needed to monitor pH and adjust with additional applications if pH is not in the above targeted range. Do not allow pH to drop below this range, as this can cause root burn.
MEDIA EC:	1.0–1.4
MOISTURE:	Maintain consistent moisture. Do not allow plants to wilt or dry down.
FERTILIZER:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For red or pink flowers: Use a high phosphorous fertilizer such as 15-30-15.• For blue or purple flowers: Use a low phosphorous fertilizer such as 14-0-14.• Stop fertilizing in the fall to promote dormancy.
COMMON PESTS & DISEASE:	Powdery mildew and Cercospora leaf spot can occur when plants are stressed. Watch for aphids on soft, new growth.

FINISHING INFORMATION (continued)

TRIMMING:	Recommend one trim during the first year of production to bulk. Trimming too late in the season will negatively impact next year's flowering. Avoid trimming crops after mid-July.
PGRS:	None needed
ADDITIONAL NOTES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plants require a chilling period to produce flowers. Be sure that crops receive a minimum of 1,000 chill hours at temperatures between 34–38°F.• Once flower bud set occurs, keep out of direct sun to prevent flower burning. Do not overhead water once flower color begins to show, as this will cause burn and promote diseases such as botrytis.
FINISHING TIMES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 gallon: Shift 21c in September. Overwinter containers. Plants will be saleable the following April–May.• 3 gallon: Shift 21c in May and grow on. Overwinter containers. Plants will be saleable the following April–May.



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