



HYDRANGEA GAME CHANGER®

Recommended Containers: 6 1/2" to 12" pots, combination planters

Hydrangea Game Changer® does not require any chilling hours, nor does it require daylength extension to initiate flowers. URC production allows economical, quick turn production on this worlds first perennial hydrangea line. Zone 5.

Crop Planning from Unrooted Cutting:

Pot Size	Plants per pot (pp)	Finish Time (weeks)
6 or 6 1/2" pot (15 to 16 cm)	1	15 to 16 (spring) 13 to 14 (summer)
10" pot (25 cm)	3	15 to 16 (spring) 13 to 14 (summer)
12" pot (30 cm)	3	16 to 17 (spring) 14 to 15 (summer)

Unrooted Cutting Rooting: The unrooted cuttings will arrive as double node. A cell size of 25-30mm is sufficient. A hormone dip is beneficial or a K-IBA foliar application at the rate of 350ppm. Bench heat of 70-72F (21-22C). Mist feed is advised at a rate of 50-65ppm N. Root emergence will occur day 14-16 and may then be moved from bench to hardening and held 60-65F (15-18C).

Transplant Temperature Requirement: Day – 68° to 72°F (20° to 22°C)
Night – 60° to 65°F (15° to 18°C)

Cooler nights once established enhance finished quality. Game Changer® is hardy to zone 5. These Hydrangea will continuously flower all spring and summer in containers and landscape the first year of production from stock.

FERTILIZATION: While Hydrangeas are heavy feeders, they can be damaged with too much feed in the early stages of development. Normally, one application of 20-20-20 at the rate of 250 ppm will suffice. For Pink varieties, high levels of phosphorus and low levels of potassium are required; aluminum is less available with this ratio. The pH level needs to be maintained between 5.8 to 6.2.

For all colors, a constant fertilization of 20-10-20 can be applied at a rate of 100 to 150ppm. Insure there is a minimal of 10 to 15% leachate at each feeding to reduce salt accumulation. Feed at this rate two to three times in a row, then clear water the next two to three irrigations. The alternate fertilization method is intermittent feeding, 20-10-20 at the rate of

350 ppm once every ten days, again with 10 to 15% leaching. Whichever method is used, never apply fertilizer to a dry root ball; it will burn the root hairs, diminishing the quality of the plant. For Blue and white varieties, apply aluminum sulfate at the rate of 7 ½ pounds per 100 gallons of water weekly for three weeks at time of flower initiation. This is to be done approximately three times to insure a good blue color for blue varieties and a “fresh” white color for white varieties. Drench only the growing media with this solution. Avoid getting any aluminum sulfate on the leaves or damage will occur; immediately wash off the leaves if the aluminum sulfate gets on them. As with fertilization, never apply aluminum sulfate to a dry root ball because it will burn the root hairs. Aluminum sulfate will help lower the pH; maintain blue and white’s pH between 5.0 to 5.5. Remember, blue varieties are light feeders which need high potassium and low phosphorous levels to keep the aluminum available to the plants. If the root hairs are damaged or the pH is too high, interveinal chlorosis can occur. Leach the root ball thoroughly two to three times, then start reforming the root hairs. The chlorosis will disappear, and health green leaves will start forming. To reduce the pH, apply an acid forming fertilizer and / or inject the water with phosphoric acid.

Pinching requirements: It is recommended to pinch at time of transplant. Flower initiation will occur 8-9 weeks after time of last pinch.

Growth Regulators: B-Nine at a rate of 2500-3500ppm. A paclobutrazol drench may also be applied post flower initiation at a rate of 2-3ppm. This will hold the plant without noticeable flower size decrease.

Disease and insect pests: Aphids, Slugs, Spider Mite, Thrip, Whitefly and Scale. Pythium and Rhizoctonia spp., Sclerotium spp.- root/stem damage will cause reduction in growth, cause yellowing of foliage (appearing as iron or manganese deficiency) or distortion of growth. Keep soil evenly moist and drench with preventative root rot fungicides.

Botrytis and Powdery Mildew are leaf disorders to be aware of. Regular preventive fungicide sprays will help control fungal diseases along with good air movement.