

Portland Nursery  
Changing Hydrangea Colors

## Looking to change up the colors?

Plant a Bigleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) and you can change the blue and pink flowers by changing the soil pH.

- Low pH is acidic = blue flowers
- Higher pH is more alkaline = pink flowers
- Mid-range pH = purple flowers

Soils west of the Cascades are typically acidic, so Hydrangeas are typically blue when planted in the ground.

| To Change Colors:   | pH Flower Color        |
|---|------------------------|
| To turn flowers purple or pink, add lime to the planting area & reapply twice a year. | 4.5 deep, intense blue |
| To deepen blue color, add Aluminum sulfate once a year.                               | 5.0 medium blue        |
| To maintain a specific pH, test the pH twice a year using a soil test kit.            | 5.5 lavender-purple    |
| White hydrangea color cannot be manipulated with soil pH.                             | 6.0 pink-purple        |
|   | 6.5 mauve-pink         |
|   | 6.8 medium pink        |
|   | 7.0 intense, deep pink |