

Hydrangea macrophylla



Crop Cultivation Sheet

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ICL Specialty
Fertilizers



Hydrangea macrophylla

General information for cultivation:

Hydrangea macrophylla is a very popular crop. The crop is mainly cultivated and sold as decoration for terraces and is a popular choice in consumers' homes as well. The aim of the culture is to grow compact, well-branched plants with good color and many flowers. The cultivation method has a large influence on the quality of the plants. Total cultivation time from cuttings to sellable plants is 1-2 years (starting from cuttings). This crop cultivation sheet focuses on the Hydrangea in garden applications.

STAGE 1: Cuttings and young plants



Cuttings to be made in May – June (+September), from outdoor mother plants. Select cuttings of similar stem-thickness.

STAGE 2: Vegetation



Potting in early spring gives best results. Hydrangea develops leaves before growing new roots. Ensure high humidity around pottings.

STAGE 3: Finishing



Quick culture, not suitable for all Hydrangeas.

Cultivation cards:

Growing medium and water

- Blue varieties, for realizing color: soil pH-H₂O: 4.5
- Other varieties (white and pink): soil pH-H₂O: 5.3-5.5
- It is recommended to use clean, neutral water (low HCO₃) for Hydrangea, especially when cultivating the blue varieties.

Growing phase

- Evaporation can be enormous during days with lots of sunlight.
- Try to avoid stress caused by ongoing plasmolysis (over-evaporation).
- It is recommended to keep relative humidity high. But be careful with varieties sensitive to mildew.

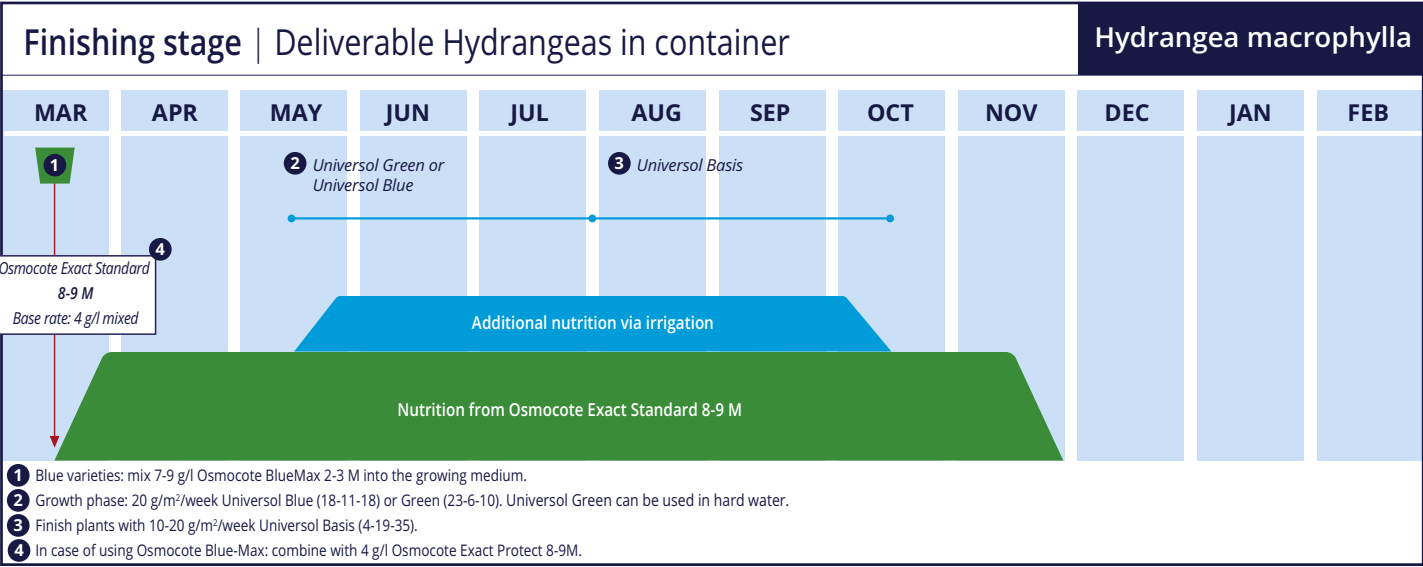
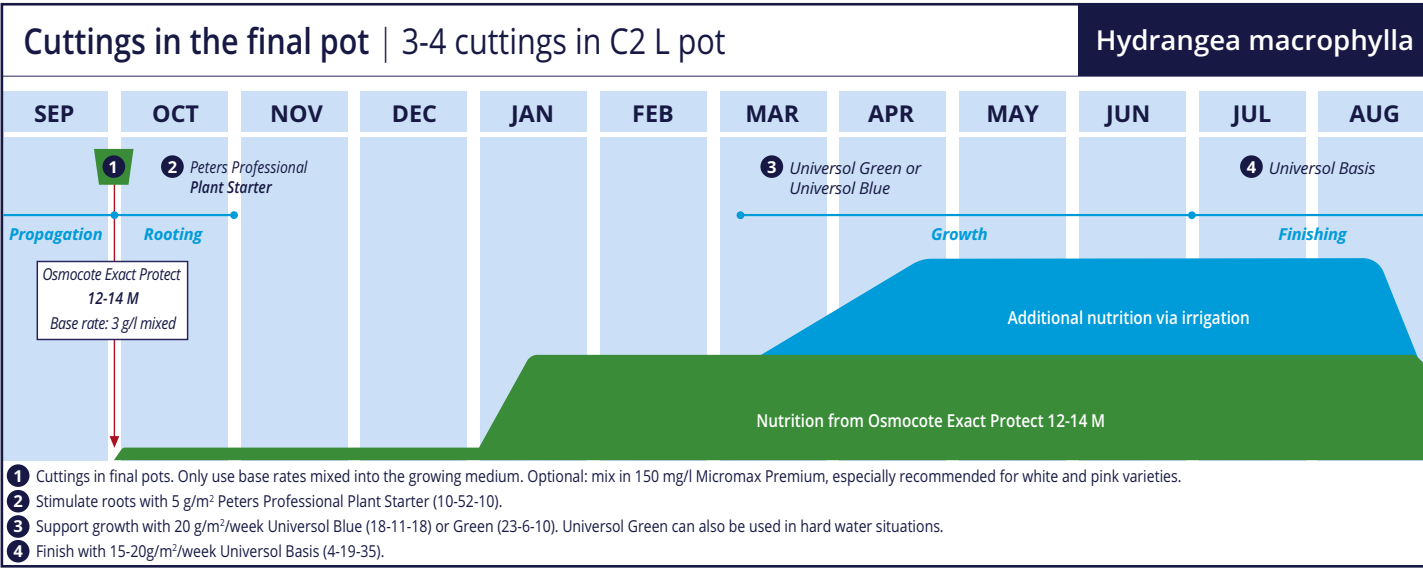
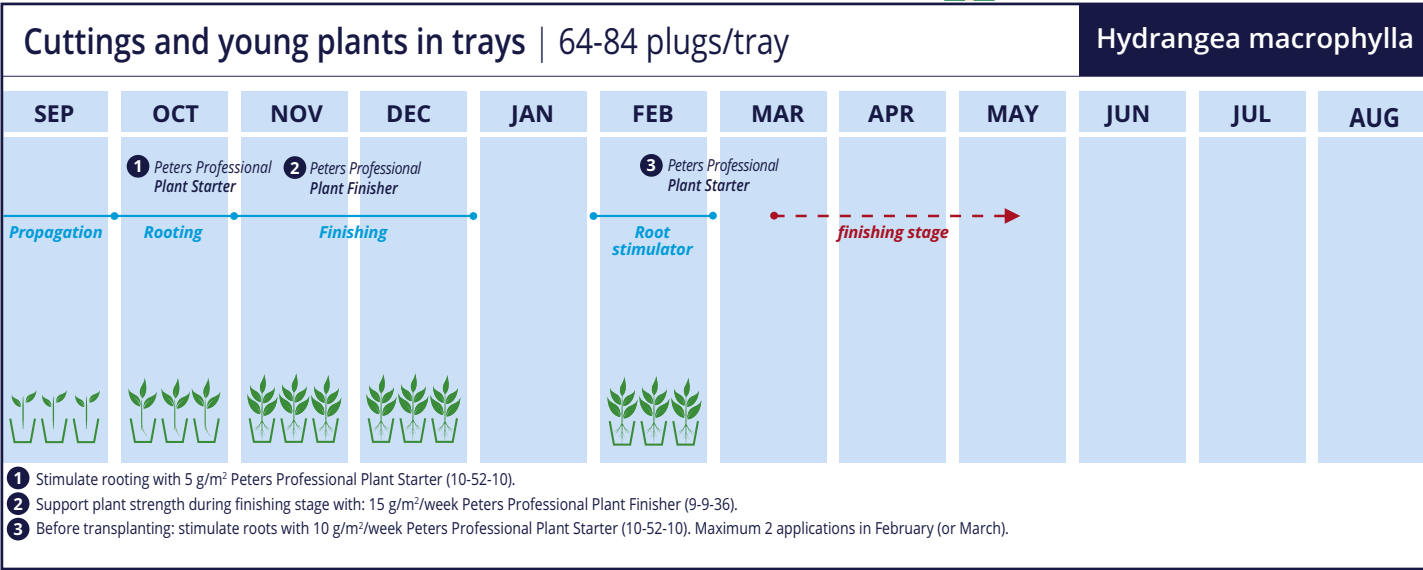
Starting phase

- Hydrangea develops branches and leaves prior to any root growth. This can cause excessive evaporation.
- Greenhouse climate: avoid peaks in temperature, humidity and irradiance in the greenhouse.
- Maximize the root growth as smoothly as possible. Avoid peaks in temperature and humidity in the pots.
- Ensure stable moisture management in the substrate during culture.

Finishing phase

- Compactness of plants is important for customers, mainly in retail.
- To limit the need for growth regulation: stop water soluble feeding as soon as plants have reached the desired length in August / September. Mainly use potassium-based fertilizers.
- Micromax Premium can help fulfill the plant's high trace element need.

Recommendations for Cultivation



For a tailored advice for your situation, please contact your ICL Specialty Fertilizers advisor. As circumstances can differ and as application of products is beyond our control, ICL Specialty Fertilizers cannot be held responsible for any negative results. Before a new rate, product or application method is used, a small-scale trail is recommended.

Cultivation notes from our specialists



Tips & Tricks

Hydrangea macrophylla

- In the case of Hydrangea, it is possible to speed up the culture by making the cuttings directly in the final pot (2l).
- Make sure you have frost protection in place during spring. Start cultivation inside the green house, or prepare anti-frost sleeves or anti-frost irrigation.
- In general, after starting with high quality young plants, we recommend to:
 - Keep moisture in the pot high, because Hydrangea needs a lot of water.
 - Also keep relative humidity high. Avoid plant stress due to 'evaporation shocks'.
 - Ensure sufficient levels of trace elements, especially when Hydrangeas are potted immediately outside: nights in spring can be cold. This can cause difficulties in the availability of phosphorus and iron during.
 - Around cultivation actions (pruning, cutting, etc.): keep EC levels low and stimulate roots with high P fertilizers.



Crop Protection

Hydrangea macrophylla

Sciara

Can occur during rooting period. Especially, because this crop takes a few months to root. The quicker roots are developed, the less problems.

Wine Weevil (*Othiorhynchus sulcatus*)

Take preventive actions larvae by mixing the protection products into the growing medium. Curatively it is necessary to apply protection products against adults (beetles) during summer months (evening applications).

Mildew

Some varieties are becoming more and more sensitive to mildew moulds. Apply the right nutrition to strengthen leaves throughout the growing season. Ask your ICL advisor for the possibilities of foliar nutrition to support strong plants.



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