

OUT OF THE BOX

FIRST EDITIONS® VANILLA STRAWBERRY™ HYDRANGEA SKU # M46310

Your plants arrive to you in grower's pots. Cottage Farms urges you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag around each pot down and place them in or near a bright window, or other sunny location. Because these arrive in grower's pots, they may need more frequent watering until permanently planted. Once planted, they may take 4-6 weeks depending upon weather and other environmental conditions to start setting roots and showing new growth.



The foliage on potted plants may appear wilted or yellow upon receipt. This is nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly then gently remove any foliage that doesn't "perk up".

A brand new upright hydrangea that will bring amazing romantic color to your summer and fall garden. This great woody shrub will create color in the landscape at a time most other plants are shutting down due to heat. Vanilla Strawberry™ hydrangea has large 8 to 12 inch conical blooms which start out pure white and gradually turn to strawberry red. With blooms starting in early summer and new blooms emerging throughout the growing season, by late summer the plant has a multicolor effect which is visually appealing. Easy to grow and long lived, Strawberry Vanilla™ is an excellent value for any landscape. A great structure plant for the back of the border or as a corner foundation plant. The cut blossoms can be displayed as a cut flower inside the home or dried as an everlasting flower for dried arrangements.

TIPS FROM MASTER GARDENERS

Sleep, Creep, Leap!

Some plants grow very quickly and reach a mature size within the first year, while others progress more slowly. The plants in this collection are long-lived and can take a few years to produce significant growth. The expectations of their development can be summarized by the common gardening mnemonic "sleep, creep, leap". During the first season, (sleep) the plants will show very little growth as they are setting their root systems and becoming accustomed to their new home. In the second season (creep) the gardener should be able to observe very healthy plants with moderate growth. The third year (leap) is when exceptional headway will be noted and the plants will truly become stars of the garden.

*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.



Thank you for your order.

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

- www.CottageFarmsDirect.com
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting Guides](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting%20Guides)
- CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ
- Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com
- [facebook.com/CottageFarms](https://www.facebook.com/CottageFarms)
- [@CottageFarms](https://www.instagram.com/CottageFarms)
- [888-593-3644](tel:888-593-3644)
- 9960 Padgett Switch Rd.
Irvington, Alabama 36544

Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following shipping season.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

© 2015 Cottage Farms - Printed in USA

Cottage Farms Direct PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



FIRST EDITIONS®
VANILLA STRAWBERRY™
HYDRANGEA

FIRST
EDITIONS
SELECTED FOR SUCCESS™

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

CULTIVAR	Hydrangea paniculata 'Renhy' PP20,670
LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Part shade to sun. Southern gardeners should place their hydrangeas in a location that receives morning sun and afternoon shade. Northern gardeners can plant hydrangeas in areas with more direct sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	4 to 8.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	4 feet apart in-ground.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	6 to 7 feet tall with a 4 to 5 foot spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost of 2nd growing season, and every year thereafter.

SOIL PREPARATION

Although these plants will perform well in average garden soils of all types, we recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.csrees.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). These tests can determine if the soil needs any amendments to enhance your plants' growth and performance. See below for our recommended practice to improve your soil without any additional testing:

1	Spade or till the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches.
2	To provide nutrients and improve drainage, add organic matter to your soil by mixing in a 2 to 4-inch layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost, shredded leaves, and/or peat moss.
3	After active growth begins, periodically feed with Cottage Farms' water soluble <i>Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster for Acid Loving Plants (SKU #M10831)</i> Plants in containers need more frequent watering and feeding, especially when in active growth and bloom.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: Thoroughly rehydrate the plant and its surrounding soil before planting so it may properly adapt to its new location. We recommend submersing the root zone of the plant in a container of water for 2-3 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the plant.
2. After watering, separate the root ball from its pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand, and gently squeezing the sides of the pot with the other. The plant should easily slide out of the pot with just slight pulling.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool. Loosen any roots that have begun winding around the soil ball and prune any rotted or damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and refirm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

SPECIES INFORMATION

PANICULATA	Native to Japan and China, the name comes from the panicle (cone-shaped) shaped blooms that can be up to 18 inches in length. These hydrangeas require more sun than the Macrophyllas and are very receptive to pruning. Paniculatas often feature a dramatic color change in the fall.
MACROPHYLLA	Also known as Big Leaf hydrangeas, Macrophyllas are probably the most popular hydrangea in American gardens. The mopheads feature the traditional globe-shaped clusters of blooms while lacecaps produce tiny fertile flowers in the center surrounded by a ring of infertile flowers.
ARBORESCENS	Known as the Smooth Hydrangea, Arborescens can be found thriving in a wide range of North American climates. They easily find a home on ravines, along rocky river banks and, of course, in the garden. These hydrangeas bloom reliably on new wood and are very tolerant of full-sun.
QUERCIFOLIA	Also known as Oakleaf Hydrangea. Oakleaf Hydrangea has leaves that are shaped much like those of a red oak that turn rich shades of red, bronze and purple in the fall and often persist well into the winter. The cone-shaped flowers start out creamy white and change to a pinkish color as they age. Flower color does not vary with soil pH.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plants' first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that just wet the top of the soil. Due to individual plant needs, geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought and extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day. Overwatering can be as damaging as underwatering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant.
WEEDING	Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth.
PRUNING	The best time to prune a hydrangea is after the blooms begin to fade. At that time, the plant can be pruned back by as much as 1/3 its size to maintain desired size and shape. Remove any branches that become overlapped, damaged or unsightly and also carefully remove dead flowers and leaves as needed. Pruning too early or too heavily may cause them not to bloom.
FEEDING	Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as Cottage Farms' <i>Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster for Acid Loving Plants (SKU #M10831)</i> . Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.
WINTERIZING	A thorough watering in late fall will greatly enhance the plant's cold tolerance. The time to protect your plants in the garden is after the ground has frozen. At that time, apply a winter mulch of evergreen boughs, straws or leaves to prevent lifting of the plant's roots during alternating periods of freezing and thawing. For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area, be sure to check the soil moisture every 7-10 days and water as needed. In spring, remove the mulch from in-ground plantings and prune off any dead wood. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.