



## Hydrangea Pruning

Pruning blue hydrangeas can be pretty tricky. They bloom on old wood and carry their flower buds through the winter. If it is a harsh, cold winter, the buds are often winter-killed. If you prune them in the fall or spring, you have removed the flower buds.

In spring, wait until growth has resumed and you see the leaf buds breaking. Remove only dead stems, always pruning above a node. If the plants have gotten too tall for the particular site, perhaps transplanting is a better option than trying to keep them short. If they do require pruning during the growing season, the best time is in early to mid August, shortly after full bloom. Again, prune them back to a node.

Hydrangeas will grow in full sun to partial shade but require adequate moisture if grown in the sun. A good exposure is morning sun with some afternoon shade.

*Roberta Clark*

*UMass Extension Educator - Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry*