

DORMANT HYDRANGEAS 1 1/2 Quart
VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWERING - 2020

VARIETIES:

POT INTO 6 1/2" TO 8" CONTAINERS

PINK	Approx. Weeks Force Time	BLUE	Approx. Weeks Force Time	RED	Approx. Weeks Force Time	WHITE	Approx. Weeks Force Time
Merritt Supreme	12-13	Mathilda Gutches (dark blue)	13-14	Firelight (rose/red)	12-13	Sister Therese	11-12
Firelight	12-13	Merritt Supreme Blue (purple/plum/lavender)	12-13	*HBA Varieties \$0.08 Plant Patent Charge		Snowball	11-12
		Firelight Blue (burgundy)	12-13			First White *	11-12
		Berlin Blue (light blue)	13-14				

WHEN ORDERING - PLEASE SPECIFY FLOWERING DATE AND "SHIP BY" DATE

PRICE:

Valentine's Finish

300 - 1185 PLANTS

1200 - 5985 PLANTS

6000+ PLANTS

3 CANE

\$4.05

\$3.80

\$3.60

5 CANE +

\$4.70

\$4.45

\$4.15

(Quantity Discount Per Shipment)



AVAILABILITY:

November 4, 2019 thru December 15, 2019

MINIMUM:

300 plants - 20 cases

A surcharge of 10% will be added to less than minimum orders.

WEIGHT:

Approximately 29 lbs per case and 2.2 cu.ft. per case.

PACK:

15 per case / 21" x 14" x 13"

BOX CHARGE:

None

INSULATION:

\$3.50 per case, if necessary
 (Required for Air, UPS, Fedex)

TERMS:

2%/10 DAYS, NET 30 DAYS

F.O.B.:

SMITH RIVER, CA -

Freight from Smith River to other carriers, whether air or surface, will be charged at \$2.75 per box.

Direct delivery to customer's door will be charged at \$4.40 per box in the Portland area and \$5.50 per box in Seattle area.

\$200 minimum for direct delivery.



Kurt A. Messick

A CASE FOR 1 ½ QUART DORMANT HYDRANGEAS

MANY GROWERS WITH EXPERIENCE ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY HYDRANGEAS FROM 4-INCH DORMANT MATERIAL. On occasion, however, due to various reasons production problems are encountered. Even by experienced growers. A review of the methods resulting in good rooting of 4-inch material into soil in 6-inch or larger pots is in order to understand where 1½ quart material fits in a production plan.

Reasons for poor rooting of 4-inch dormant hydrangeas are:

1. Drying of the 4-inch root ball and subsequent shrinking of the 4-inch ball from the soil used to fill the final pot. Remember, the plant starts to leaf out while most or all roots are in the 4-inch ball. Water depletion in the 4-inch ball occurs very fast and may not be noticed, especially if fresh soil covers the 4-inch ball. Two practices can help to overcome this problem.

A) "Rough up" the 4-inch root ball. We used to believe that a simple scoring would suffice but we now believe that a more severe scarification of the 4-inch ball is best to insure close contact with the new soil and to encourage new root growth. We have seen new roots to the side of the pot in two-three weeks using this method with adequate watering.

B) Be absolutely sure to water the 4-inch root ball rather than the new soil in the larger pot. If lead weight watering is used, place the lead weight directly on the 4-inch ball. If over-head watering is used, water frequently enough to keep the 4-inch ball wet. This problem is overcome if ebb and flow irrigation is used.

2. High fertility in the fresh potting soil. Perhaps it is not alone the high fertility in the 1½ quart potting soil that is used. It may be that the fertility in the dormant 4-inch ball is quite low and roots acclimated to this low fertility may not readily penetrate the soil with the higher fertility. Fertility is usually low in the 4-inch ball because of efforts to gradually harden the plant prior to storage, to slow growth, and to encourage leaf drop.

To help this problem, do not add any fertilizer to the soil used to pot the 4-inch plant except for lime, gypsum and superphosphate as needed for color control. Liquid fertilizer or dry fertilizer can then raise fertility in both soil masses near equally.

3. High temperature. In some situations, in the south particularly, temperatures are high enough to both inhibit root growth and most likely - promote top growth to the detriment of root growth.

Use of 1½ quart dormant plants eliminates the concerns above. In addition in many cases, 1½ quart plants eliminate the labor of potting. As far as we can tell there is only one drawback to the use of 1½ quart plants as discussed below:

1. Cost – 1½ quart plants cost more than 4-inch for 2 reasons

A) Base cost is more, mostly because of additional storage and box costs

B) Freight costs for 1½ quart plants are greater. Many growers are making the shift to 1½ quart plants especially for early crops in the north when light is limiting and in the extreme south when temperatures are high for Easter, Mother's Day and later. Growers who have not tried 1½ quart material are urged to do so. Elimination of the rooting problems and labor saving in potting can easily makeup for additional base and freight costs.

In spite of increased costs, use of 1½ quart plants is increasing. Our production level for 1½ quart plants is near 1/3 of our total production. Use of 1½ quart for Valentine's Day is especially desirable because of poor growing weather during mid-winter. Conversely, in the south where very hot temperatures may inhibit rooting relative to top growth, use of 1½ quart plants is desirable for Mother's Day.

