Town & Country gardens

Eclipse® Hydrangea

Hydrangea macrophylla 'BAILMACSEVEN'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: French Hydrangea, Bigleaf Hydrangea

Description:

The first true dark-leaf mophead hydrangea; striking amethyst or cranberry colored blooms emerge over intense, dark purple leaves that hold their color, providing season-long beauty; it really stands out in the garden or in decorative containers

Ornamental Features

Eclipse Hydrangea features bold balls of ruby-red flowers with chartreuse centers at the ends of the branches from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive deep purple foliage with hints of black. The large glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Eclipse Hydrangea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Eclipse Hydrangea is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Eclipse Hydrangea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Eclipse Hydrangea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Eclipse Hydrangea will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.



Eclipse Hydrangea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Eclipse Hydrangea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.