

# q floral gossip: with MERCEDES SARMINI

Common Name – Hydrangea  
Latin name – Hydrangea spp.  
Family (Tribe) – Hydrangeaceae  
Nickname – Old Granny's Shower Caps or Mop Head

A cluster of lush globes filled with a delicate lace of small star shaped petals



Autumn, Spring time and Summer time cutflower - AVAILABLE NOW  
Gender – Female (high heels)

Women - Peony comes in root form which is the Tree Peony variety (shrub) can last up to 10 years, just cut back the dried out branches annually for maintenance (does not die back into the ground as its cousin the Herbaceous, prune when blooms have died out, cut only the split ends no big hair cut as it will affect the blooms to come out the following year). From Japan.

Anniversary – 4th Birth Flower - N/A  
Native to – Japan & China

'Hydrangea' - Symbolises Gratefulness and Pride and it celebrates with heartfelt praises and appreciation (thank you). In Western Culture it also spells out to the receiver, I'm not INTERESTED!

It's a HIGH end Cutflower so it's not cheap to purchase – Like anything its most expensive as soon as its in Season, fetching \$45 to \$60 a bunch at your local florist. However its most affordable mid to late Summer cost than drops to the affordable price \$25 to \$40 a bunch AUS. The size of their heads ranges from small, medium to large depending on what variety it is. They seem to be making a comeback, however, which is not surprising as this flower has a huge range of strong colours, is long-lasting and is fascinating to look at.

Flower Care - Hydrangea is a Waterholic

1. Keep Sweet Hydrangea cool areas whenever possible as it loves the Cold!!!!
2. Strip leaves from the bottom half of each stem.
3. Recut at least 3 cm off (high heels) each stem above the stem node and place in water immediately. I call the nodes Knee Caps LOL!!!
4. Pin internally bottom of stem to make water intake easier, usually Hydrangea struggles to drink as a cutflower due to its bark stems.
5. Always use a preservative a Adds extra km to cutflower life to Hydrangea
6. If water starts looking yellow in colour, it's a sign of bacteria is growing in the water. IMMEDIATELY replace with fresh water.
7. Hydrangea ranges from 30 to 70 cm
8. Drown the heads of Hydrangea in burped water for a minimum of 15 min to 45 min as they also drink from their heads
9. Use Alum (a salt) at the end of a freshly cut stem to add more vase life into the Hydrangea
10. Mist with burped or filtered water the flower heads every day to keep up the hydration.
11. Very thirsty drinkers, and keep away from bright lights as this will help retain the Hydrangea colour
12. Add ice cubes in water of vase as Hydrangea LOVES cold water Brrrrr
13. If you're really serious about Hydration, keep in the most cool place of home or workplace and spray the floral heads daily
14. Ms Hydrangea has hairy legs so removing the leaves (shaving of the legs) is necessary if you want to enjoy them in a vase filled with water
15. With summer approaching there are more cut flowers to enjoy but your noticing is your flowers are not lasting as long as usual well it may have a lot to do with your Air conditioning. AIR CON draws out moisture from all flowers, so be mindful to place your flowers out of the direct way of air conditioning to get extra KM out of them.

TIP – Hydrangea the plant, starch and sugars (carbohydrates) are stored in stems, leaves, and flowers. These stored foods are needed to sustain the cut flower after harvest; it's an absolute MUST to only cut the Hydrangea before sunrise or just before sunset - only cut with a full bladder. If not, that why it Wilt's - Full Bladder Please!!!!

TIP - All cut flowers need semi light - as photosynthesis is a food source for its wellbeing and longer vase life

What to look out for when purchasing?

- When to buy it – when it's rich in color and flowering head is firm. Weak head is a sign of aging. Signs of aging – the petals dry out and fading in colour
- Petals should be free of brown blemishes and not curling inwards;
- Avoid bunches with brown tips on leaves and yellow streaking on leaves
- Crisp leaves and strong stems is the GO

The Gossip

- Associated chakra Balancing- Root, Sacral and solar plexus
- Colours – (monochromatic) - white, cream, pink, red, purple, green and blue. Also 2 tone colours
- Season – Spring to Summer
- Ms Hydrangea, comprises of up to 80 species (debatable)?
- Cousins – Mock-orange, Dichroa (their very pretty and ornamental looking plants)
- Flower food – Yes - "Let's talk about the ingredients 25 ml Bleach 25 White Vinegar 10 teaspoons of Sugar – WHY? Extra KMS"!!!
- Filtered or burped water in Vase (medium fill). Does well in Floral foam and wired work (high end variety)
- It's a perennial and if you're after a strong flush of Hydrangea next year you must prune back to the base – low maintenance plant
- Avoid 'don't place near fruit bowls esp. with ripening fruit and vegetables, tap water, cooling and heating i.e. air conditioning and cigarette smoke
- Vase life – 7– 12 days (long lasting)
- Great use in floral crowns, bridal bouquets, church floral arrangements, fantastic in wreaths or just on their own in a vase
- Edible – Yes – Buddhist use it as a Tea, it is said to help treat Autoimmune disorders as well as Malaria, Kidney stones and enlarged Prostate.
- Drying – YESSSSS - Air drying, I recommend the bigger head variety for drying –use a diluted glycerine solution to accelerate process or just proceed with the traditional way of using shallow water in vase and watch it drink out the water in vase to its taxidermy stage

TIP: IF YOUR FLOWERS HAVE BEEN OUT OF WATER FOR MORE THAN 15 MINUTES, USE WARM WATER AFTER CUTTING STEM, AS IT TRAVELS FASTER UP THE STEM TO REVIVE THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.

Interesting Fun Facts about Ms Hydrangea

GROWN COMMERCIALLY IN QUEENSLAND – HYDRANGEA IS GROWN OUTDOORS

In Western culture, Native American's used the root as a diuretic and the bark as pain relief for muscle pain and burns.

As a plant, Hydrangea is a shrub, and the colour that you might bring home hopefully to be pink for example? Once planted into the soil might grow out to be blue. True fact, the colour of your Hydrangea is determined by the chemical balance of your soil. Something to be aware of.

Also, it is believed if you bury your steel wool that you use to clean your dirty saucepans into the soil of Ms Hydrangea, the colour will then be darker in bloom from its original colour. The steel wool changes the PH in the soil. When the soil is neutral it produces Cream and Whites, alkaline soils result in Pinks or Purple and acidic soil result in Blue.

The Emperor of Japan GIFTED Hydrangea to his maids as a symbol of IM SORRY  
FLOWER LANGUAGE (floral communication)

The word Hydrangea stems from the Greek word for Water (hydros and Jar), the name comes from the constant moisture required to keep the happy, healthy and blooming. Every Colour of Hydrangea has a meaning, white – purity, blue – forgiveness, purple – wealth and abundance and pink – is love. Looks great mixed with other cutflowers such as Peony Roses and Oak foliage.

Every cut flower is a source of wonder, flowers are medicine for the soul, mood boosters and each flower carries a message with it for mankind to ENJOY

Message – Hydrangea

Hydrangea helps you transform the old into the NEW; it's usually a LIFE changing decision. Great for New Year resolution's. Ms Hydrangea helps you to let go.

For more information, or to contact Mercedes, go to [www.flowersbymercedes.com.au](http://www.flowersbymercedes.com.au)