

DECOR SHRUBS

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Can Décor Shrubs Be Used Outdoors?

Unlike the hardy shrubs we offer later in the season, décor Azalea and Hydrangea need protection from the colder temperatures that linger into early spring. If you use these plants on the porch or patio bring them inside whenever temps dip below 40 degrees.

Enjoy your décor shrub indoors while it is in bloom. If you do not want to discard it, you can plant it in the garden in May. Chances are you will not see any more blooms, but you can enjoy the pretty foliage until the frost rolls in with the fall.

Give It A Dunk

Every so often it's good to give the Azalea plant a thorough soaking: fill a sink or tub with water and set the pot in it so that only the soil is immersed. When the water stops bubbling, remove the pot and let it drain. Remember that you're aiming for damp rather than soggy soil.

Indoor Spring Décor

Flowering shrubs add instant color when decorating for weddings, showers, and other festive springtime events. They're also great for simply bringing a touch of spring indoors!



Azalea: Bright Flowers and Graceful Form

Pretty Azalea blooms measure one to two inches across and are often double or semi-double, and sometimes the petals are ruffled. They are showy flowers for sure, and if you keep the plant in bright, indirect sunlight in a cool room it should stay in bloom for about three to four weeks.

Cool in this case would be no warmer than 68 degrees during the day, and between 40–55 degrees at night. An enclosed porch or hallway away from any radiators or heating vents is a great spot for your Azalea—keep it away from dry, hot areas of the house. Above all, do not allow the soil to dry out with Azalea. Check frequently and water if the top one-inch of the soil feels dry.



Hydrangea Shades

Hydrangea flowers may be white or various shades of pink or blue. Their color reflects the amount of acid that is in the soil.

Naturally acidic soil results in a deep blue or dark purple color.

Soil that remains alkaline causes flowers to stay red or pink.

Neutral soil gives us white blooms.

Planting Hydrangea In The Garden

Décor Hydrangea has a chance at coming back for another season of blooms when planted in the garden. Wait until late April or May and gradually introduce the plant to the outdoors. Set your Hydrangea outside in a part-shade location during the day and bring it in at night for a week to ten days.

After that, plant it in a spot that gets morning sun and afternoon shade. Your Hydrangea might not produce any more blooms during the summer but if conditions are favorable over the winter, it should be back in action the following year. Another round of big, beautiful snowball blooms is worth a little bit of extra effort!

Hydrangea: Bold Snowball Blooms

Hydrangea makes a bold statement on a coffee table or bar, with big snowball-style flowers. Keep it near the sunniest window you have, eastern-facing if possible. It also thrives in indirect sunlight. Just like Azalea flowers, Hydrangea blooms prefer a cool room so to make them last keep the thermostat around 68 degrees.

In a pot this shrub tends to dry out quickly. Keep an eye on the soil and water when it starts to feel dry, before the plant gets to the point of wilting. Water just to keep the soil moist, and avoid letting the plant sit in a saucer of standing water. As is so often the case, moderation is the key to success!

Should I Transplant My Indoor Shrub?

If you like, you can transplant your Hydrangea into a slightly bigger pot, about an inch larger on all sides. Make sure it has a drainage hole and if it's terra cotta, all the better. Gently fill in with fresh potting soil, being careful not to pack it too tightly. Note that while Hydrangea adapts to a larger pot, Azalea usually flowers best when left undisturbed in the original pot where the roots are slightly bound. If you'd like to repot after flowering, use a pot with a drainage hole or a clay half-pot, also called an Azalea pot, to restrict the roots and allow adequate drainage.

