

# Wood River Evergreens

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## Secrets to Success

Nikko Blue is perhaps the most common Bigleaf Hydrangea. It is particularly impressive in the months of July and August when it displays its blue to pink, snowball like blossoms. Flower clusters are rounded and up to 10 inches wide. They begin opening in mid-summer. The plant withstands partial shade. This is a good seacoast plant that withstands salt spray.

These plants produce their flowers on shoots that were formed during the previous season. They can be pruned to good advantage immediately after blooming - each year if necessary.

First, cut out or shorten some of the oldest branches. Then, if the shrub is still crowded, thin out the weakest of the new shoots. Always cut just above a vigorous side branch. (Other plants that can be pruned like this include Forsythia and Weigela.)



The habit of the plant is a rounded mound. Mounds can be 3 to 6 feet high and can even reach 10 feet in some instances. Mounds can even be wider at maturity.

Leaves are waxy, on the thick side and 4 to 8 inches long in medium to dark green.

Depending on temperatures, flowers last for four weeks or longer and generally go through a number of color changes.

Does best in deep, moist, organic-laden, well-drained soils. They require abundant moisture.

### FACTOIDS

- Trim back winter-damaged growths to new growth and remove spent flowers in the summer.
- Flowers in mid-summer.
- Forms large, thick leaves in a mound.
- Frost hardy.
- High salt tolerance and withstands spray.
- Over 500 cultivars of this genus exist.

Common Name:

**Blue Hydrangea**

Scientific Name:

**Hydrangea macrophylla Nikko Blue**

Stock Number:

**H160**

Category:

**Deciduous shrub**



## Hydrangea: Blue by the Bounty

These chameleon-like plants can vary the color of their flowers depending on the acidity of the soil in which they're growing. Blossoms may be blue in acid soils and pink in high pH soils.

Flowers usually last for four or more weeks and go through color variations in the process.

Like Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*), this genus is capable of with-

standing salt spray and so makes an ideal planting for seaside environments.

An additional advantage of the plant—especially for this area—is that it is frost hardy and winters well.

The flowers provide a wonderful contrast to the large, lustrous medium to dark green leaves which form a mounded plant.

Planting	Spread Size	Soil	Sun	Feeding	Pruning
Softwood cuttings in summer.	H: 3 - 5' S: 4 - 5'	Moist but well-drained soil.	Like full sun to partial shade.		Prune old wood to shoots in spring.