

# Why Doesn't My Blue Hydrangea Bloom?

It's the question I hear most frequently from people who are growing mophead or lacecap hydrangeas.



## Here's what you need to know:

1. These type of hydrangeas make their flower buds a year in advance. So in August they are forming the germ of the flower for the next summer.
2. Flowering depends on those tiny buds making it through the winter.
3. If the winter temperatures fall much below 5 degrees F. the buds get zapped, and your shrub won't bloom. A late spring frost can also kill them. If you live in a cold climate, grow them in pots and over-winter in a garage.
4. If someone cuts the plants back at any time, fall or spring, the buds are removed and the plants won't bloom well. Don't "neaten them up" or try to make them smaller. Just remove dead, bare branches or tips in late-spring.

## A Tale of Two Hydrangeas



These blue hydrangeas are growing on neighboring properties. The plant on the left wasn't cut back at all. The one on the right was cut in half, shaped into a rounded ball in the fall, which is why there are few flowers.