



**Grateful Red Hydrangea**  
*Hydrangea macrophylla 'McKRed'*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ●

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: French Hydrangea, Bigleaf Hydrangea

**Description:**

Clusters of stunning blooms that are red, with dramatic streaks of hot pink through the petals; a compact plant that is awash in color all summer; purplish color in acidic soil.

**Ornamental Features**

Grateful Red Hydrangea features showy clusters of red flowers with hot pink overtones at the ends of the branches from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall.

**Landscape Attributes**

Grateful Red Hydrangea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded 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.

Grateful Red Hydrangea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Grateful Red Hydrangea will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.



*Grateful Red Hydrangea flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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This shrub should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic 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.