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FOR THE GARDENER

in fact, they can be cut down almost to ground level they will then shoot from the base, possibly flowering in the first year after this drastic treatment will be a bit sparse.

The potted varieties should have the shoots which have flowered cut back only a little to make the bushes shapely. Do not prune too heavily as the growths which have not flowered and have not been cut back provide the best trusses of flowers.

HJT



HYDRANGEA

Pruning: Permanent outdoor varieties can be pruned as necessary to an outpointing bud to keep good shape, or

HYDRANGEA (Saxifragaceae)

Greenhouse and hardy flowering shrubs. They do best in soil containing plenty of humus and sand, they also need plenty of moisture. The species *Hortensis* which is that normally grown is, by nature pink, the shade of the flowers can vary according to the particular soil. The colouring can be induced to blue and probably the best way to achieve this is to get a special bluing agent from a seedsman or nursery.

POT Culture: use a compost comprising two parts loam, one part sand and one part leaf mould for the first potting then a rather heavier compost for potting on this would be obtained by adding rather more loam and sand.

Propagation is by cuttings taken in February, March or if preferred Autumn. Keep cuttings in pots in frost free places.

The hardy Hydrangea can be grown outdoors all the year round, the more tender species can be bedded out during the Summer or left in their pots which can be sunk into the ground. After flowering lift pots and take into a frost free place.

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