

FLOWERS · A GARDEN BED WITH MORNING SUN

Let's grow panicle hydrangea.

Hydrangea paniculata Little Lime® 'Jane'

This plan is for **Little Lime panicle hydrangea**

Is this your plant? This in-ground plan is for Little Lime ('Jane'), a panicle hydrangea. Its pruning and flower-color advice does not apply to every hydrangea; container growing also needs a different plan.

Big summer flower heads on one compact shrub.

5 ft between shrubs

1 nursery shrub

Before you start

Plant in workable ground during moderate weather. Allow 5 ft between Little Lime shrubs; favor morning sun and afternoon shade in hot regions.

By [jennyzhuang](#)

Sources checked September 25, 2026 [View sources](#)



LIGHT

Sun, with a little shelter

Give 4–6 hours of sun or more in cool regions; favor morning sun and afternoon shade in hot regions.



WATER

Likes steady moisture

Water a drying root ball deeply; avoid waterlogged ground.



FEEDING

Start without added feed

Good garden soil may supply enough. Test before correcting poor growth.



Keep this ornamental hydrangea away from pets that chew plants; NC State lists panicle hydrangea as a problem for cats and dogs.

BEFORE YOU START



Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 Little Lime panicle hydrangea, labeled 'Jane'
- ✓ A spade and a hose or watering can
- ✓ Mulch for a 2–3-inch layer, kept clear of the stem base

THE SOIL

Well-drained garden soil with organic matter. Use the native soil to backfill, not a pocket of container mix.

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN



A garden bed. Here's the plan.

A garden bed with morning sun. Start with **nursery shrub**.



THE SPACE

5 ft between shrubs

Allow at least 2½ ft from its center to the bed edge. This is one in-ground shrub, not a container recipe.



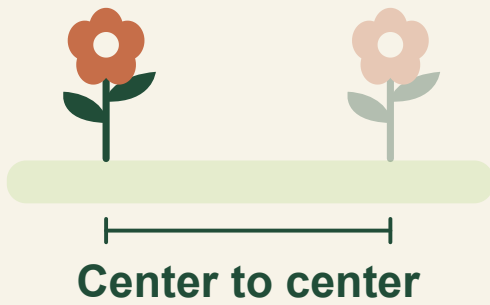
HOW MANY

1 nursery shrub

Choose Little Lime ('Jane'), a panicle hydrangea that reaches about 3–5 ft tall and wide.

THE SPACE

5 ft between shrubs



START WITH

1 nursery shrub



Illustration · not to scale

5 ft between shrubs · 1 nursery shrub Allow at least 2½ ft from its center to the bed edge. This is one in-ground shrub, not a container recipe. Choose Little Lime ('Jane'), a panicle hydrangea that reaches about 3–5 ft tall and wide. Original illustration; not to scale.

01 Give the shrub its space

Choose morning sun, drainage, and room for a 3–5-ft-wide shrub. Keep 5 ft between centers if planting a row.

02 Set the root ball at ground level

Slide off the nursery pot and loosen circling outer roots. Find where the main roots meet the stems; remove excess loose mix hiding that point. Dig at least twice as wide as the root ball, with a firm base and no deeper than the roots need. Keep that root collar level with the surrounding ground.

03 Backfill and soak

Return the soil you removed, firm gently, and water slowly to settle it around the roots.

04

Mulch and check the roots

Add 2–3 inches of mulch without touching the stems. Check the original root ball daily for the first two weeks, especially in heat.

Other ways to start

Buy a smaller nursery plant

A smaller labeled Little Lime plant is a practical lower-cost start. Give it the same eventual space and closer moisture checks while its root ball is small. Seeds do not reliably reproduce this named cultivar.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE



Water & fertilizer at a glance.



WATER WHEN

Check daily for the first two weeks, then at least weekly for two years. Water slowly when the root-ball soil is dry about 6 inches down; wait if damp.



FERTILIZER

No added fertilizer for this starting plan



AMOUNT

None



WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

No fertilizer dose to calculate.



HOW OFTEN TO FEED

No extra fertilizer at planting.



WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

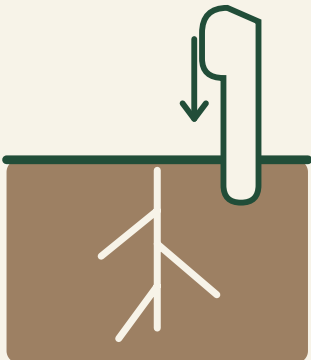
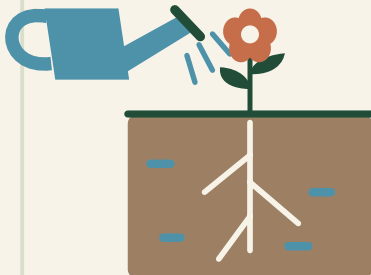
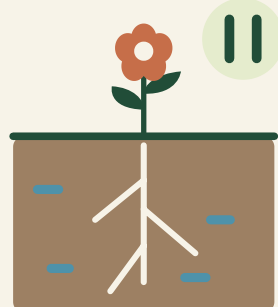
This starting plan assumes reasonably fertile ground. Established shrubs may need spring feed; use a soil test to choose an amount if growth stays poor after care is corrected.

Do not fertilize a drought-stressed shrub or add acidifier to turn Little Lime blue.



When to water.

Check the original root ball daily for the first two weeks, then at least weekly for the first two years, with extra checks in heat or wind. Probe about 6 inches down in the root-ball area: water slowly if dry; wait if damp. Wet the surrounding root area as roots spread. If water runs away or puddles, pause and let it soak in. About four hours later, recheck moisture at that depth to see whether the water reached the roots. Midday drooping alone is not a reason to soak already-wet soil.

CHECK	WATER	WAIT IF WET
Check about 6 in. down 	Slowly, at the roots 	Moist soil? Wait to water 
Moist roots, not a fixed day Illustration · not to scale		

Check before watering. Check daily for the first two weeks, then at least weekly for two years. Water slowly when the root-ball soil is dry about 6 inches down; wait if damp. Original illustration; not to scale.

The easy rule

Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

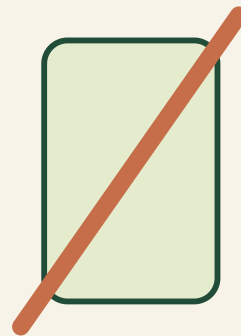
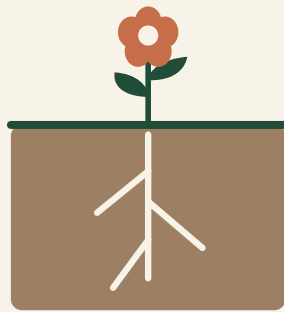


Exactly what to feed it.

Buy no fertilizer for planting day. In reasonably fertile ground, start with mulch and careful watering. Do not put fertilizer into the planting hole or feed a drought-stressed shrub.

THIS STARTING PLAN

No added fertilizer



Skip extra feed

Follow the conditions in this plan

Illustration · not to scale

None No fertilizer dose to calculate. No extra fertilizer at planting. This starting plan assumes reasonably fertile ground. Established shrubs may need spring feed; use a soil test to choose an amount if growth stays poor after care is corrected. Original illustration; not to scale.

THE SIMPLE FEEDING PLAN

Start without extra fertilizer.

This no-extra-feed plan is a starting choice for a garden bed, not a claim that Little Lime never benefits from fertilizer. Proven Winners recommends spring feeding; Maryland Extension advises a soil test when a shrub appears nutrient-deficient. If established growth remains weak after water and drainage are corrected, use the test to choose a product and amount. Do not buy acidifier to change these flowers blue.

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



Summer flowers and mature shrub size

Little Lime produces greenish-white summer flower heads that can age pink. An established shrub is about 3–5 ft tall and wide. Weather affects color and timing; a newly planted shrub may put energy into roots first.

When and where to plant the shrub

The breeder lists USDA zones 3–9. Plant when the ground is workable and conditions are moderate. Cooler sites can provide more sun; hot sites benefit from afternoon shade and reliable root-zone moisture.

For regional planting windows, [find your local Cooperative Extension office](#) ↗.



Something looking off?

Can acidic fertilizer turn it blue?

No. Little Lime is a panicle hydrangea. The blue/pink soil-acidity rule associated with some bigleaf hydrangeas does not apply. Do not add aluminum sulfate to turn these flowers blue.

When do I prune it?

Prune in late winter or early spring. Panicle hydrangeas flower on new growth. Repeatedly trimming shoot tips in summer can remove developing flowers.

Why does my other hydrangea need different care?

Mophead, oakleaf, smooth, and panicle hydrangeas are different groups. Check the plant tag before using this cultivar-specific plan.



Pruning and choosing a garden site

Remove damaged branches and shape lightly

Remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches in late winter or early spring, then lightly shape if needed. The compact cultivar does not need constant summer trimming.

Keep this recipe in a garden bed

This guide gives one shrub a permanent place in garden soil. A container requires its own size, watering, feeding, and winter plan; do not move this recipe unchanged into a small patio pot.



Help with your next step.

[Compare your first flower project](#)

Check whether a garden-bed plant or a smaller container project fits your space.

[Browse flower growing plans](#)

Compare the named varieties and starting spaces before choosing another plant.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- [Proven Winners: Little Lime identity, size, light, and zones ↗](https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/hydrangea/little-lime-panicle-hydrangea-hydrangea-paniculata)
<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/hydrangea/little-lime-panicle-hydrangea-hydrangea-paniculata>
- [Iowa State: hydrangea types and pruning ↗](https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/growing-hydrangeas-iowa)
<https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/growing-hydrangeas-iowa>
- [Maryland Extension: planting shrubs ↗](https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/planting-tree-or-shrub)
<https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/planting-tree-or-shrub>
- [Maryland Extension: watering new shrubs ↗](https://extension.umd.edu/resource/watering-trees-and-shrubs)
<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/watering-trees-and-shrubs>
- [Maryland Extension: fertilizer decisions ↗](https://extension.umd.edu/resource/fertilizing-trees-and-shrubs-and-nutrient-deficiency-symptoms)
<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/fertilizing-trees-and-shrubs-and-nutrient-deficiency-symptoms>
- [NC State: panicle hydrangea light, growth, and pet caution ↗](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/hydrangea-paniculata/)
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/hydrangea-paniculata/>

Something needs updating? [Suggest a correction](#)

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.