

Growing Rhododendrons And Azaleas

Azaleas and rhododendrons have been a staple in the landscape for many years with their brilliant blooms. When properly planted and cared for these plants will give you years of color and enjoyment.

WHERE TO PLANT

Azaleas and rhododendrons grow best in a sheltered site that is not windswept. The site should also receive dappled sun in the summer with little or early morning sun in the winter. Place plants on the north side of a building, the east side or last, the west side. If plants are not planted close to a building, plant where windbreaks, fences, or evergreens protect them.

SOIL PREPARATION

Rhododendrons and azaleas like moist (not wet), well-drained, well-aerated soil with a pH between 4.5-5.5. 50% of the planting medium should be organic material such as peat moss or pine bark mulch. The organic matter should be worked into the soil at a depth of 12". If planting in individual holes dig your hole 36" wide and 15" deep. Remove half of the soil and replace it with Premier PRO-MIX® Ultimate Landscape Mix and a handful of Espoma garden sulfur. In the bottom of the hole, add 3" of pea gravel or stone to help with drainage.

HOW TO PLANT

Container

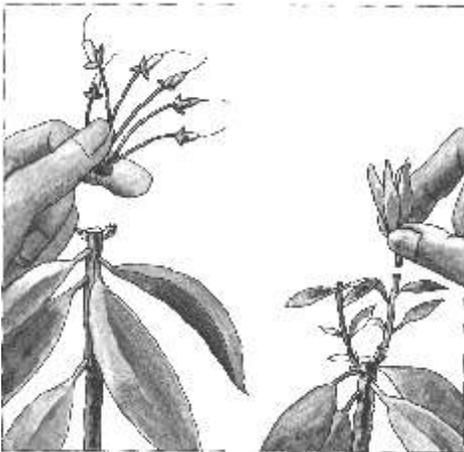
Make sure the root ball is moist. Soak the plant in a tub of water, container and all, for about 5 to 15 minutes (if you do not have a tub, water thoroughly). Remove the container from the plant. If a thick mass of roots is present, score the root ball with a knife about an inch deep in 3 to 4 locations around the root ball.

B&B

Water the root ball the day before. Once the plant is situated in the hole, remove the burlap entirely since the roots are fine and delicate, and do not grow through the burlap as easily as other types of plants.

Dig a hole in the prepared bed, add some Schultz® Plant Starter Plus™ Fertilizer and then place plant in the hole so that 1" to 1.5" of the root ball is above the soil line. Gently firm the soil around the roots in the hole. Do not use your foot to tamp the soil. Water the plant in. You may also use Ironite at the recommended rate this will give the plant iron and other valuable nutrients.

AFTERCARE;



KEEPING IT GROWING STRONG

Apply Hollytone 3 times a year to established plants April 1-15, June 1-15, and October 20-November 10. If it is a new planting apply at half the recommended rate.

TRIMMING & PRUNING

Trim Azaleas and Rhododendrons to shape right after they are done blooming. After rhododendron flowers fade, carefully remove old flowers and flower stalks. Be careful of the buds under the flower. Pinch the tips of new growth in spring to increase blooming.

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