

# Rhododendron & Azalea

## Rhododendron & Azalea Care

Paying attention to a few simple guidelines when choosing and planting this group will reward you with years of beauty.



- Rhododendrons and Azaleas prefer moist, well drained soil that is high in humus, and acidic. Inadequate drainage is the #1 killer of Rhododendrons and Azaleas. A preferable site is one that is slightly shaded out of the way of strong winter winds and the hot afternoon sun.
- The fine silk-like root structure tends to stay very near the surface and resents disturbances. Light mulching is beneficial.
- Loose open materials such as pine bark make an ideal mulch for Rhododendrons and Azaleas.
- Due to their root structure, pot grown varieties can become so thick and matted that the roots on them must be cut. Vertical slits with a knife will ensure good root to soil contact.
- New transplants should be monitored carefully so that they are neither too wet not too dry.
- Height varies depending on the cultivar. In general Azaleas tend to be smaller. All flower in the spring.  
Dwarf Rhododendron- early to mid April  
PJM Rhododendron- early to mid April  
Azaleas- April to May  
Rhododendrons- May-June

### There are five main groups of Rhododendrons and Azaleas.

1. Large Evergreen Rhododendron
2. Small Evergreen Rhododendron
3. Viveya
4. Deciduous Azalea
5. Evergreen Azalea



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## **Groups 1 & 2 Small and Large Evergreen Rhododendron**

- Some cultivars develop a silvery woolly covering on new leaves which disappears with age.
- Small leaf varieties are slightly more tolerant to sun exposure.
- Flowers may be white, pink, red, lilac, yellow or purple.
- Largest cultivars can reach 8'-10' tall and 6'-8' wide.
- Smallest cultivars only reach 18" tall and 18"-24" wide.
- Not all varieties are hardy in Zone 5.
- Be sure to ask your Garden Center Professional for assistance.

## **Group 3 -Viveya**

- This group is not hardy in our Zone 5.

## **Group 4 -Deciduous Azalea**

- Flower colors include red, orange, yellow, pink, white, and bi-colors.
- Flowers may be single or double.
- Some varieties have fragrant flowers.
- Sizes may range from 3'-5' tall to 2'-4 wide.
- Not all varieties are hardy in zone 5. Be sure to ask your Garden Center Professional for assistance.

## **Group 5- Evergreen Azalea**

- Flower colors include red, fuschia, purple, white and pink.
- Flowers may be single or double.
- Sizes may vary from 3'-5' tall and wide.
- Slightly more tolerant to sun exposure.
- Not all varieties are hardy in Zone 5. Some varieties may be semi-evergreen in Zone 5.
- Be sure to ask your Garden Center Professional for assistance.



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