

ABIDE A WHILE

GARDEN BOUTIQUE



Tip Sheet: Azalea Shrub

Known as “The Royalty of the Garden,” azaleas have long been adored for their brightly colored flowers and outstanding form and foliage.

WHERE & WHEN TO PLANT

- Azaleas prefer cool, partially shaded sites, such as the filtered shade of pine trees and protected from wind.
- Do not plant azaleas in heavy shade as poor flowering and weak growth result.
- Azaleas are shallow-rooted plants that are easily damaged by excessive soil moisture.
- They grow best in acidic (4.5 to 6.0pH), well-drained, organic soils. A soil test will help determine how to adjust the pH according to soil test results.

CARE

WATERING: Azaleas are shallow rooted plants and require irrigation during dry periods (this is especially true of those planted in the spring). Azaleas planted in warm weather, in sandy soils, may require more frequent waterings.

FERTILIZE: Complete, acid-forming organic fertilizer such as Espoma Holly-Tone is an excellent choice of use. This is great to mix into the soil at planting as well as for use with spring fertilizers.

PRUNING: Prune azaleas soon after they bloom in the spring or early summer. The perfect time is when spent flowers begin to discolor and shrivel. Cutting them back in late summer, fall or winter will remove flowerbuds and keep them from blooming. Note: Repeat blooming Encore Azaleas should be pruned just as blooms begin to fade.

PEST MANAGEMENT: Lace bugs – These common pests feed on the underside of leaves by sucking fluids from the plant. These pests are easily controlled with insecticidal sprays such as Captain Jacks. The Red-Headed Azalea Caterpillar – Harmless to humans, these caterpillars can be removed by hand.