



## **Azaleas:**

**General info:** Azaleas are in the genus *Rhododendron*, and can be either “species” (which grow “true from seed”) or hybrids (which can only be propagated through cuttings). The azaleas commonly seen in the South are evergreen hybrids originally native to Japan (although the South has adopted them as their own). The North American *native azaleas*, which are deciduous, can be grown from seed and are usually fragrant.

**Landscape uses:** There are many sizes of azaleas to satisfy every landscaping need. The larger ones are commonly used as a hedge or ‘living screen,’ while the smaller ones can frame a home, act as a focal point for the yard, or even be espaliered.

**Ornamental qualities:** All azaleas have beautiful flowers which add welcome color after winter. Most varieties bloom in the spring. Newer hybrids promise more than one blooming period per year.

**Planting:** Azaleas like loose, well-drained acidic soil (between PH5-6), rich in organic matter. Our southern soil tends to be naturally acidic, so that is usually not a concern. Add amendments (compost etc.) if your soil is extremely sandy or clay-ish. Plant in a filtered shade location in order to prevent leaf burn, but avoid heavy shade which will prevent plants from blooming.

Dig a hole that is relatively shallow but wide, so that the tiny fibrous roots can explore the surrounding soil. Water thoroughly. Be sure to mulch well with pine straw, pine bark, or some similar material. Pine bark is highly recommended because it increases the acidity of the soil.

**Fertilizing/Watering:** Azaleas are sensitive to nitrogen burn and need a fertilizer low in nitrogen. We carry fertilizers designed just for them. With younger plantings during times of severe drought and/or heat, be sure to water 2-3 times per week.

**Pruning:** Azaleas set buds for the next year soon after they flower, so prune immediately (within a month or so) after the blooming period is over so that you will not remove the buds.

**Pests & Diseases:** Although not usually prone to pests, the most common pests are the azalea lace bug and spider mites. The most common diseases are petal blight, leaf gall, leaf spots, dieback, and root & crown rot.



**Selections:** There are thousands of varieties, species and cultivars of azaleas; but only a few are actually available to buy. The following azaleas are usually available at Wise Nurseries.

***Indica varieties***

- ‘Formosa’** - magenta-lavender flowers; 8 ft. tall
- ‘G.G. Gerbing’** - white flowers; 7 ft. tall
- ‘George L. Tabor’** - light orchid pink flowers; 6 ft. tall
- ‘Red Formosa’** - deep violet-red flowers; 7ft. tall
- ‘Southern Charm’** - deep rose flowers; 8 ft. tall

***Kurume varieties***

- ‘Christmas Cheer’**- red flowers; 2 ft. tall
- ‘Coral Bells’** - coral pink flowers; 3 ft. tall
- ‘Hinodegeri’** – red flowers, wine foliage in winter; 3 ft. tall
- ‘Pink Pearl’** - pink hose in hose / white center; 3 ft. tall
- ‘Snow’** - white flowers; 3 ft. tall

***Glenn Dale Hybrids***

- ‘Delaware Valley’** – white double flowers; 3 ft. tall
- ‘Fashion’** - orange red flowers; 5 ft. tall

***Rutherford varieties***

- ‘Pink Ruffle’** - pink semi-double; 4 ft. tall
- ‘Red Ruffle’** - red, double ruffle; 4 ft. tall

***Satsuki varieties***

- ‘Gumpo Pink’** - large, pink flowers; 3 ft. tall
- ‘Gumpo White’** – large, white flowers; 1-2 ft. tall
- ‘Flame Creeper’** – orange/red fl; dwarf spreader 1-2 ft. tall
- ‘Wakaebisu’** - yellow/pink flowers; 3ft. tall

We also carry an extensive selection of **Encore Azaleas**, which bloom several times per year.

In the spring, we have at least one variety of the deciduous *Native Azalea*.