



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

DECIDUOUS AZALEA CARE

LIGHT

Deciduous azaleas, including Mollis or Knaphill types, Lights selections, and fragrant summer-flowering hybrids, grow in sun to partial shade. Good light supports flowering, while afternoon shelter helps on hot sites. Give the cultivar room to form its natural upright or spreading shrub shape without repeated clipping.

WATER

Keep shallow roots evenly moist during establishment and dry summer or autumn weather. Water slowly, checking the root ball and nearby soil. Avoid chronic saturation. Mulch conserves moisture but does not replace watering checks before the soil freezes.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use acidic, humus-rich, well-drained soil and test pH before amendments. Set the root ball at or slightly above ground level. Mulch lightly without touching stems. Avoid deep cultivation among shallow roots and do not add lime automatically.

FEEDING

These shrubs need little fertilizer. Use soil-test results to guide a modest spring application for acid-loving plants if needed. Avoid heavy or late nitrogen. Yellow leaves may signal pH or drainage problems; diagnose the cause before repeatedly feeding.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune selectively after the particular cultivar finishes flowering, removing damaged or misplaced branches and thinning only when needed. Bloom time differs among spring and summer types. Late or heavy pruning can remove future buds, so avoid treating every azalea as if it flowers at the same time or needs annual shearing.

HELPFUL TIPS

Autumn leaf color followed by winter leaf loss is normal. Some summer-flowering selections have fragrant blooms, while others flower before leaves expand. *Viscosepalum* is a deciduous azalea despite being listed under *Rhododendron* in inventory. Match hardiness and moisture needs to the named selection rather than to the generic azalea label.