



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

EVERGREEN RHODODENDRON CARE

LIGHT

Evergreen rhododendrons, including broadleaf hybrids, PJM types, and dwarf selections, generally prefer bright filtered light or morning sun with afternoon shelter. Protect from drying winter wind and intense winter sun. Sun tolerance and mature size vary by cultivar, so choose exposure and spacing for the specific plant.

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 lightly just after flowering if shaping is necessary, removing dead, damaged, or rubbing branches. Preserve developing shoots when removing old flower clusters. Late pruning can remove next year's flower buds. Avoid routine shearing or hard annual cutting; allow the natural form and mature size to suit the planting site.

HELPFUL TIPS

Cold-weather leaf curling is common in broadleaf rhododendrons and can relax when temperatures rise. Some older leaves shed naturally; PJM foliage may bronze in winter. Flower-bud hardiness varies, so a living shrub may lose blooms after a severe winter. This guide excludes azaleas that lose most or all leaves seasonally.