



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

EVERGREEN AZALEA CARE

LIGHT

Evergreen azaleas such as Girard selections, Blaauw's Pink, Stewartstonian, Bixby, and Snowball prefer filtered light or morning sun with afternoon shelter. Protect from drying winter wind and harsh reflected heat. Allow room for the cultivar's mature mound rather than relying on frequent shearing to keep it beside a path.

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

Evergreen azaleas can lose some older leaves or bronze during winter, especially near their cold limit. They should not be assumed to retain every leaf in Maine. Check cultivar hardiness and exposure before planting. Persistent bare branches, leaf discoloration, or poor growth need a moisture, root, and pH check before treatment.