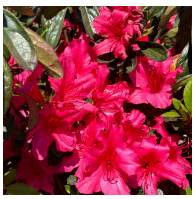
Azalea + Rhododendron Care Guide

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TIPS TO GROW SHADE TOLERANT AZALEA AND RHODODENDRON

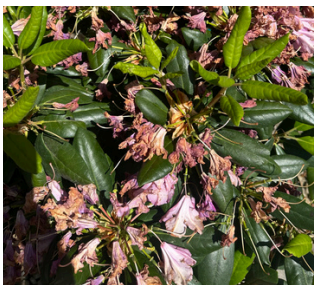
Plant in morning sun until noon or 1pm, with afternoon shade, or dappled light, to avoid leaf scorch. (all evergreen and exbury azalea)



Soil Amendment– EB Stone Azalea, Camellia & Acid mix (30% EBS to 70% native soil) Rich, well-draining soil with plenty of organic matter is the goal. Bark mulch to go on top of the soil for moisture retention of shallow roots.
Root Starter- Fertilome Root Stimulator or Espoma Biotone, add to hole when planting.
In-season add these products to lower soil pH from Idaho's 7 to 5.2-5.5 and promote more acidic soil that rhododendron and azalea prefer to thrive in Idaho. ½ oz or 1 Tbsp aluminum sulfate to one gallon of water, apply to established plants during the growing season April-September.
Other options: Espoma Soil acidifier or Hi-yield Soil Sulfur can be added to the top of your soil are also excellent at lowering Treasure Valley soil pH.

Fertilizing- We recommend using our slow release Espoma for azalea & rhododendron 3x's during the growing season, once in early spring, end of June and in September. Espoma Azalea, Berry, Plant or Holly Tone are excellent slow release fertilizers for azalea and rhododendron. Fertilome Azalea, Camellia & Rhododendron food is also an option for early spring only.
Watering- deep water when planted and regular watering throughout the growing season.
A good deep watering in **late fall and early spring** is recommended in Idaho.

Pruning Shade Tolerant Azalea and Rhododendron:
Rhododendron and azalea blooms generally fade anytime mid May til mid June, depending on the amount of light they receive, the variety and Idaho's spring weather. Usually these plants don't need much pruning. Selecting the right size for your planting location can help you avoid most pruning except dead branch removal.
Reasons for pruning most plants are:
1.)removal of dead, diseased, or damaged branches, this can be done at any time.
2.) shaping of the plant
3.) plant rejuvenation for older plants



Spent blooms on a Rhododendron in mid May. You can use a blower to remove dried, spent blooms or gently pick them off. Be sure to keep the new tiny leaves intact directly below the bloom.



Rhododendron with new light green leaf growth after spring bloom. The new growth leaves will produce next year's bloom buds.
If you trim these new growth leaves off = **no blooms next year!**

Pruning Evergreen Azalea:
These azalea require very little to no pruning and no deadheading. Prune out any dead wood back to sound wood, i.e., where a nick with the fingernail reveals a layer of green cambium under the outer bark.

Pruning Exbury Azalea: Remove spent blooms if you prefer and very minimal pruning only to shape or remove dead branches. Pruning typically not necessary.

Pruning Evergreen Rhododendron: Gently remove spent blooms above the new buds if you like a tidy look. Minimal pruning to shape, typically not necessary.