



The Plant Professionals

PLANTING AND CARE OF AZALEAS

The first necessity for healthy growth and abundant blooms from your Azaleas is selection of a good planting site. The areas must not be low as to allow standing water, or if so must be raised up so that excess water drains off. Also, Azaleas do best in part day sun or bright shade; the north or east side of a house or under trees is ideal.

The second consideration is modifying the soil structure and acidity level. Peat Moss is a must, and should be mixed one part peat to two parts existing soil, or 4" of peat worked into the top 12" of soil (4 bales per 100 sq.ft.). Also, very helpful are sand (18 bags per 100 sq.ft), gypsum (1 bag per 100 sq.ft.) and Ironite Soil Acidifier (3 lbs. per 100 sq.ft.).

Third is proper care of your Azaleas through feeding, mulching, and watering. They should be fed with Miracid Azalea, Camellia, Gardenia and Magnolia Food, March through October. Apply a 2 inch layer of mulch over root area (but not touching trunk) to keep roots cool and moist. Azaleas should be watered frequently, as roots are shallow and dry out more quickly than many other shrubs. Prune after bloom period ends. Do not cultivate soil around root area so as not to disturb surface roots.

Azaleas do require a little special effort, but their extra special blooms have earned them a place in every gardener's heart.