Dorothy Swift Rhododendron

Rhododendron 'Dorothy Swift'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Group/Class: Yakushimanum Hybrid

Description:

A lovely selection featuring pale pink and white frilly blooms emerging from hot pink buds, over dark green, glossy foliage; quite hardy; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting

Ornamental Features

Dorothy Swift Rhododendron is smothered in stunning clusters of lightly-scented white trumpet-shaped flowers with shell pink streaks at the ends of the branches in late spring, which emerge from distinctive hot pink flower buds. It has dark green foliage with tan undersides which emerges light green in spring. The glossy narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Dorothy Swift Rhododendron is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Dorothy Swift Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Dorothy Swift Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Dorothy Swift Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Dorothy Swift Rhododendron will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.



Dorothy Swift Rhododendron in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder