Sugar Puff Rhododendron

Rhododendron 'Sugar Puff'



Sugar Puff Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

In late spring, this elegant, evergreen shrub is bathed in clusters of beautiful white blooms edged with pale pink blotches; an excellent choice to mass in groupings, or as a focal point of the garden; must have rich acidic soil

Ornamental Features

Sugar Puff Rhododendron is bathed in stunning clusters of fragrant white trumpet-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones at the ends of the branches in late spring, which emerge from distinctive tan flower buds. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The small glossy narrow leaves turn coppery-bronze in the fall, which persists throughout the winter. The red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Sugar Puff 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 has no significant negative characteristics.

Sugar Puff Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Sugar Puff Rhododendron will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. 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. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. 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.