# Admiral Semmes Azalea

***Rhododendron 'Admiral Semmes'***



*Admiral Semmes Azalea flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

**Description:**

Large, fragrant yellow blooms adorn this lovely variety in early to mid spring; an accent or border shrub that will definitely stand out; great for southern heat and humidity; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil

**Ornamental Features**

Admiral Semmes Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant yellow trumpet-shaped flowers with peach throats at the ends of the branches from early to mid spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The glossy oval leaves turn outstanding shades of orange and in the fall.

**Landscape Attributes**

Admiral Semmes Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous 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.

Admiral Semmes Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

**Planting & Growing**

Admiral Semmes Azalea will grow to be about 8 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. 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.