Red Bird Azalea

Rhododendron 'Red Bird'



Red Bird Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Group/Class: Glenn Dale Hybrid

Description:

Clusters of fiery fuchsia blooms, flushed with red, cover this azalea in early to mid-spring, over contrasting, deep green, leathery foliage; semi-evergreen in cooler hardiness zones; needs highly acidic and organic soil that is well drained

Ornamental Features

Red Bird Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of fuchsia trumpet-shaped flowers with red overtones at the ends of the branches from early to mid spring. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The glossy oval leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Red Bird Azalea is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. 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.

Red Bird Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Red Bird Azalea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy 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.