Alabama Azalea

Rhododendron alabamense

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

Rich and lovely ivory white blooms feature a prominent yellow blotch; blooming in mid spring the flowers have a distinct lemon spice fragrance and are in bountiful clusters; low to medium in height, delightful as a landscape accent that will get noticed



Alabama Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Alabama Azalea is smothered in stunning clusters of fragrant white trumpet-shaped flowers with shell pink overtones and a yellow blotch at the ends of the branches in mid spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.



Alabama Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Alabama Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded 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.

Alabama Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Alabama Azalea 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. 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 species is native to parts of North America.



Alabama Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder