Royal Azalea

Rhododendron schlippenbachii

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

One of the all-round finest of deciduous azaleas, featuring bright pink flowers in spring before the leaves, an upright habit, and superb fall colors; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting

Ornamental Features

Royal Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant shell pink trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive pink flower buds before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Royal Azalea is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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.

Royal Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Royal Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Royal Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Royal Azalea will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 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 50 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 not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich 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 not originally from North America.



Royal Azalea in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder