Fireball Azalea

Rhododendron 'Fireball'



Fireball Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

This striking evergreen shrub is bathed in clusters of beautiful bright orange blooms that emerge from red buds; an excellent choice to mass in groupings, or as an elegant focal point of the garden; must have rich acidic soil

Ornamental Features

Fireball Azalea is bathed in stunning clusters of lightly-scented orange trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring, which emerge from distinctive red flower buds before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The glossy narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Fireball 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.

Fireball Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Fireball Azalea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 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. 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.