Spider Azalea

Rhododendron stenopetalum 'Linearifolium'



Spider Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Rhododendron macrosepalum

Description:

A rare find in cultivation; both the deep pink flower petals and the dark green leaves are distinctly linear; a truly exotic form of azalea; needs highly acidic and organic soil that is well drained



Spider Azalea foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Spider Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of hot pink spider-like flowers at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Spider Azalea is an open multi-stemmed evergreen 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.

Spider Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Spider 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. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.