



## Azaleas

Azaleas do well when they are planted in a place where they can receive either dappled sun all day or sun in the morning and light shade in the afternoon. A spot under a tree or on the north side of your house would be good places to plant azaleas.

Plant your azaleas in late spring or early fall. They need well-drained, humus-rich soil that is slightly acidic. You will need to mulch well around them. A mulch of pine needles, or aged oak, pine, or hemlock sawdust will keep soil acidic and moist. They don't require fertilizer because the mulch has what it needs, and they need very little care. Be sure to water them, however, during really dry spells.

All azaleas belong to the Rhododendron genus, but not all rhododendrons are azaleas. Usually, rhododendrons are larger shrubs than azaleas. Their leaves are larger, as well. The flowers of the azalea usually have five stamens, while the rhododendron flowers have ten. The azalea is also different because they are deciduous, where the rhododendron is not.

Azaleas are known as "The Royalty of the Garden", and rightfully so. Their rich, vibrant colors add such beauty to any garden!

