



Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons, Gardenias, and Hydrangeas

Provided by Mid City Nursery

Light and Watering Requirements:

It is best to plant Azaleas, Camellias, and Rhododendrons in a shady location. A north or east side of a house, and/or under a tree with filtered shade is good. Only morning sun is recommended because afternoon sun causes burning on the leaves. Deciduous Azaleas tolerate more sun.

Good drainage is important, with consistent regular watering, about 2 to 3 times a week during the hot summer months, giving your plants about 5 gallons of water a week. To prevent root damage, do not cultivate under the plants. Amend your soil when planting with **EB Stone Azalea, Camellia, and Gardenia Planting Mix**. Each Fall lightly mulch the plants with the same planting mix. This helps protect roots from cool winter nights & the high summer temperatures.

Fertilizer:

For Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons use an acidic fertilizer such as **EB Stone or Master Nursery Azalea, Camellia, Gardenia Food** once after bloom, once early Summer (June), and once in early Fall (September). If you prefer to use a liquid fertilizer, we recommend using **Master Nursery Acid Plant Food** monthly March - September. Fertilize with **EB Stone Ultra Bloom** or **Master Bloom 0-10-10** to enhance bud & bloom & **GreenAll F.S.T.** (iron, sulfur, manganese, and zinc supplement) monthly October through December.

Gardenias & Hydrangeas require more frequent fertilizing. Fertilize monthly with an acidic fertilizer from March thru September. Use **EB Stone Ultra Bloom** or **Master Bloom 0-10-10 & F.S.T.** beginning in November, continuing monthly thru January.

To keep your Hydrangeas blue, apply **Master Nursery Hydra Blue** three times between November & May.



Pruning:

Generally, you should prune azaleas, camellias, gardenias and rhododendrons only after your plants bloom. Early pruning can result in loss of future blooms for the season. Remove spent flowers to keep plants and surrounding area clean and free from disease. Hydrangeas should be pruned lightly as needed to control form. If your hydrangea is too large for its space, a hard prune is best soon after blossoms fade.

Common Insect Problems:

Some of the more common insects are aphids, scale, thrip, and lace bugs. If you see a trail of ants going up your shrub, you probably have aphids or scale. Another indication of these insects is a sticky residue on the leaves. Most of the insects will be found on the backside of the leaves. Scales may be found along the branches as well & will look like bumps along the limbs. Scale can be white, black, or brown. These insects are seen most often in the Spring & Fall, but can be a problem at any time of the year. For control of these insects, you can use **Master Nursery Pestfighter Oil, Malathion, Eight, or Take Down Garden Spray**.

Yellowing Leaves:

Yellow leaves can be a result of several things. It could be a lack of fertilizer and minerals, a watering problem, or insect damage. When diagnosing a problem, take into account how often you water, when and how often you fertilize, and when the last time you inspected your plant for insects. If the older leaves are turning yellow and the other leaves are a pale green, then you may need to add nitrogen. If the leaves are yellowing, but the veins on the leaves are green, then your shrub most likely needs iron. If the outer leaves are yellowing & some of the branches are dying back, the shrub may be getting too much water. Inspect the soil to see how moist the soil is. Leaves that are being damaged by insects will also turn yellow. Inspect the leaves, especially the backside, to look for insects.

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