

Green Thumb Nursery

Caring for Acid Loving Shrubs and Trees

Fertilize spring, summer, and fall with Fertilome Azalea, Camellia, Rhododendron Food.

Here at Green Thumb we understand the beauty that can be added to your landscape with acid loving plants like azaleas, camellias, gardenias, and magnolia trees. We can help you care for these type of plants from planting through maturity.



When planting acid loving plants it is important to consider the soil composition of the planting area. Acid-loving plants prefer to grow in soils that have a lower pH (4.5-5.5), but many residential soils are neutral to alkaline in nature which makes it difficult for them to thrive. Always use peat moss and a good quality potting soil when planting acid loving plants. Peat moss provides the acid the soil mixture needs to support the health of the plant. Azaleas prefer well drained soils. If the area where you are planting has poor drainage you might consider building up the soil so your plants are on a higher grade. "Plan before you Plant" is a good rule to follow when selecting plants that are the best choice for your yard.

Fertilize azaleas in spring immediately after they bloom. Lightly prune and fertilize again in June and once more in mid-August. This will result in compact growth and numerous branches in the present growing season and lots of blooms setting up for the next season. Try not to trim between the months of September and March so the plant has time to produce branches and flower buds. For all plants that prefer acid forming fertilizer, use ¼ to ½ cup of Fertilome Azalea, Camellia Rhododendron Food for plants 1 to 5 feet in height. Use ¾ to 1 ¼ cups for plants 6 to 12 ft. in height. Always remember to water in gently after application.

There are two classes of bugs and insects that may attack your shrubs. The first is sap sucking insects that can be killed with either Malathion Oil or Systemic Insecticide w/Acephate. The second class is chewing insects that eat the plant tissue. These pests are best controlled with a biological insecticide like Thuricide or Spinosad that the pest takes into their stomach. Fungal infections can cause the shrub leaves to turn yellow or have yellow spots. We sell different types of fungicides to control these infections either topically or through the plant root system. We can assist you in diagnosing any problems with your plant if you bring in a sample branch.



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