

**PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTION
AZALEAS AND RHODODENDRON**

Planting Instructions

The major planting requirement for these and other ericaceous plants is a porous, well drained, acidic soil with high broken shade. The north or east exposure of your home is a suitable planting site as the plants need protection from the hot, blistering summer sun. However, you do need sun and light for good blooms.

Cultivate a planting area twice the diameter of the container. Mix pine bark soil amendment with the soil to create a 6" tall mound that is twice the diameter of the container. Remove the plant from container and place in the center of the planting mound. Make sure the top of the root ball is even with the top of the mound. Mulch with pine straw or pine bark to conserve moisture and protect the roots. Water well to remove air pockets. Fertilize after May 15 with slow-release fertilizer according to your garden center's recommendations.

Never cultivate with a hoe since the roots are shallow. Fertilize lightly in early spring or summer never in late fall. Water well the first season or until the plant becomes established.

NOTE: We are not responsible for your use of chemicals nor do we recommend any specific brand of chemical. This is simply a summary of the spray and fertilizer schedule we at Transplant Nursery Inc. use. For additional information and specific name brands which are most effective in your area, contact your local County Extension Office. We combine one fungicide and one insecticide chemical for spraying. You can combine only one fungicide and one insecticide chemical at a time. Basically, we fertilize once a year and spray once a month during the summer months, unless we suspect root rot or other problems.

FERTILIZER: We use Osmocote 18-6-12 (a nine-month slow release fertilizer) and apply it once a year. We sprinkle it around the drip line of the plant after the plant has bloomed. We use one teaspoon per approximate gallon size of a plant container. You will have to estimate the size of your plant in the ground.

FUNGUS CONTROL: We spray once a month for fungus control as preventive measure. However if a problem exists with fungus, we spray once every two weeks. For dieback we use the following products: Cleary's 3336, mixed with one of the following: Dithane M-45, Dithane F-45. The two chemicals should be mixed according to package instructions and a spreader sticker added. For leaf blight or powdery mildew we use Daconil and spreader sticker according to package instruction. This spray should be only used if needed and not in the same week as Cleary's 3336, Dithane spray.

INSECT CONTROL: We spray as needed for insect control. In summer months we may spray every 4-6 weeks for prevention. However if problems exist with insects, we spray once every two weeks. We use Orthene which lasts for twenty-seven days (one tablespoon per gallon water) alternated with Malathion (two tablespoons per gallon water).

Root Rot: (Preventive Measure) When the weather is hot and humid we treat once every six weeks with Subdue Granular. To apply Subdue, sprinkle around the base of the plant and water in thoroughly. Use rate according to packages.

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