

# *How to Care for a* **FASHION AZALEA** Shrub **Rhododendron x 'Fashion**

## **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: A lightly shaded site, such as those on the edge of the woods

Part Shade = 4+ hrs of shade or filtered shade per day

This shrub will grow larger to 4 ft. tall & wide; Space 36 in. away from other plants or structures. For a hedge, plant 36 in. apart.

Thrives in acidic, well drained soil.

Versatile Plant for:

Specimen for rock garden, Asian tea garden. Mass or group in shrub border. Low hedge along path. Near the home foundation.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 7,8,9,10

## **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

## **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10" tall by 24-30" wide.

## **PLANTING:**

Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its trunk.

## **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

Fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of a slow release Azalea fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stem, following package instructions.

Prune in early spring to maintain desired size or to remove dead/diseased branches, if desired. A gentle light shearing to remove faded flowers in mid summer will encourage additional bloom.