Northern Hi-Lights Azalea

Rhododendron 'Northern Hi-Lights'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Group/Class: Northern Lights Series

Description:

A hardy deciduous azalea, featuring creamy white flowers with elegant yellow accents in spring before the leaves, tall upright habit and good fall color; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil, plant with plenty of peat moss



Northern Hi-Lights Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Northern Hi-Lights Azalea is clothed in stunning clusters of lightly-scented creamy white trumpet-shaped flowers with a white flare at the ends of the branches in mid spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves turn an outstanding purple in the fall.



Northern Hi-Lights Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Northern Hi-Lights Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Northern Hi-Lights Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Northern Hi-Lights Azalea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.



Northern Hi-Lights Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder