

Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons

Care and Planting Instructions



Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons are the most beautiful of all flowering shrubs. They brighten the cool, shady spots in your landscape. While each has its own characteristics, they can be grouped together because of similar planting, care and feeding requirements. Follow these simple guidelines for best performance.

Select the Proper Site

Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Japanese Camellias are all

shade loving. Some varieties will tolerate early morning sun. If you have an area with a bit more sun, Sasanqua Camellias are heartier than other Camellias and may tolerate sun as late as 1:00 in the afternoon.

Selecting the Proper Plant

Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias come in all sizes and colors. Most bloom in spring, and some Azaleas will bloom again in Fall. Sasanqua and Hybrid Camellias bloom in Fall and Winter, and may be used to extend the blooming season in your shade garden. Ask one of our California Certified Nursery Professionals for assistance in selecting those varieties best suited for your garden.

Preparing the Soil

1. Dig a hole 1" shallower and 2-3 times wider than the root ball. (These plants are shallow rooted and their root ball should rise slightly above the surrounding soil areas.)
2. Broadcast 1/2 cup GreenAll FST within the perimeter of the hole and work lightly into the native soil.
3. Prepare a back fill soil by mixing 3 parts **Master Nursery Acid Planting Mix** with 1 part native soil. Fertilize this soil by mixing in **Master Start Fertilizer** and **Osmocote Slow-Release Plant Food**. (See the chart below to know how much to use.)
4. Remove the plant from its container. Set it in the hole and confirm the crown is 1" above soil level. Make adjustments as necessary. If the root ball is tightly compacted, loosen the outer roots by gently slicing with



a knife 1/2" deep vertical cuts about every 3" around the root ball.

5. Partially fill the hole around the root ball with the back fill mix. Tamp the soil lightly. The root ball should still be 1" above the surrounding soil. (Never place soil above the root ball, covering the stem. Azaleas are very particular about this.)
6. Make a water basin around the outside of the hole, large enough to hold a generous amount of water. Add a nice layer of leaf mold 2-3" deep around the base of the plant, (within the water basin, but again, not against the stem of the plant.)
7. Water deeply. Flooding the water basin will allow moisture to soak into the root ball.



Watering & Feeding

Make sure to check your plants for water regularly. Where this planting method is great for the plants over time, it is easy for transplants to dry out soon after planting. Keep the root zone moist but not soggy. Maintaining the leaf mulch will help to retain moisture and acidify the root zone.

We recommend you feed your plants with **Master Nursery Camellia Azalea Food** monthly March through September. Supplement this with **GreenAll FST** in March, May and September. During bud set and blooming season (October through February for most of these plants) feed monthly with **Master Nursery Master Bloom** for bigger, more prolific blossoms.

Pruning and Care

As a rule, Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias do not need to be pruned. After blooming, frequent pinching of the branch tips will result in a fuller, bushier plant. Faded flowers should be removed and thrown away as diseases and insects may be harbored within this debris if not removed regularly.

Size	Osmocote	Master Start	Acid Planting Mix
1 Gallon	1 Tbs.	2 Tbs.	1/3 rd cubic ft.
2-3 Gallon	2 Tbs.	4 Tbs.	3/4 cubic ft.
5 Gallon	4 Tbs.	8 Tbs.	1-1/2 cubic ft.
15 Gallon	1/2 cup	1 cup	3 cubic ft.

What you will need to maintain your plants

- Master Nursery Camellia Azalea Food
- Master Nursery Master Bloom
- GreenAll FST

