

**Florida Flame Azalea**  
*Rhododendron austrinum*

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5b

**Description:**

This spectacular azalea blooms for several weeks in the spring; shrub is composed of compact clusters of slender sparsely branching stems; blooms are spectacular golden yellow and fragrance is a delightful honeysuckle

**Ornamental Features**

Florida Flame Azalea is draped in stunning clusters of fragrant gold trumpet-shaped flowers with red throats at the ends of the branches in mid spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

**Landscape Attributes**

Florida Flame 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.

Florida Flame Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



*Florida Flame Azalea flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Florida Flame Azalea in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

### **Planting & Growing**

Florida Flame Azalea will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. 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 species is native to parts of North America.