East Bay Nursery

Fragrant Star Azalea

Rhododendron 'Fragrant Star'



Fragrant Star Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

This is a polyploid form of 'Snowbird' and is considered by many to be the most fragrant of azaleas; pure white blooms with dramatic pointed petals cover this shrub in mid spring; must have well drained, acidic, and organic soil

Ornamental Features

Fragrant Star Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant white trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive pink flower buds before the leaves. It has bluish-green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves turn an outstanding gray in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Fragrant Star Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.

Fragrant Star Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Fragrant Star Azalea will grow to be about 5 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, 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.