White Lights Azalea

Rhododendron 'White Lights'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Group/Class: Northern Lights Series

Description:

A hardy deciduous azalea, smothered in beautiful creamy white flowers in spring before the leaves, tall upright habit and good fall color; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting



White Lights Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

White Lights Azalea is smothered in stunning clusters of lightly-scented white trumpet-shaped flowers with a yellow blotch at the ends of the branches in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive shell pink flower buds before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The narrow leaves turn an outstanding purple in the fall.



White Lights Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

White 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.

White Lights Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

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Planting & Growing

White Lights 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.