



Rhododendron periclymenoides

Wild or Pinxterbloom Azalea

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Wild Azalea's showy flowers, which bloom just before or as its leaves emerge, make it a great substitute for overused non-native and hybrid azaleas or other traditional spring-flowering species. It is **native*** to moist woods, swamp margins, and stream banks throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region where it thrives in dappled sunlight or high open shade.



Shrub	April Shrub, Leaves, Flowers
Height: 3–10 feet	
Spread: 6–12 feet	
Bloom Color: Pink, white	
Characteristics	
Deciduous , dense, spreading shrub with horizontal branching, rounded shape, often multi- stemmed	
Smooth, oblong-obovate medium-green (dull yellow in fall) leaves, alternate but appear whorled at twig tips	
Terminal racemes of fragrant, 5- petaled , tubular flowers with 5 curved exserted stamens April–May	
Elongated, 5-valved capsule matures Sept–Oct	
Gray to reddish-brown, finely shredded bark	
Spreads by rhizomes to form clonal thickets	
Attributes	
Tolerant of heat, drought, rabbits; intolerant of dense clay ; susceptible to numerous pests and diseases; deer frequently damage	
Poisonous to humans; problem for cats, dogs, horses	
Attracts bees, hummingbirds, swallowtails; larval host for ~54 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements: Rich, acidic, well-drained	
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade (best)	Excellent Replacement for
Water Requirements: Moist, (occasionally) Wet	<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> - Abelia
Plant root ball high in soil to help with drainage issues; mulch with wood chips or pine needles	Asian Azaleas & Rhododendrons
Full afternoon sun can scorch leaves	<i>Camellia japonica</i> - Camellia
Use as hedge; foundation, butterfly, woodland planting	<i>Daphne odora</i> - Daphne
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9	<i>Ligustrum japonicum & L. sinense</i> - Privets
	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> - Japanese Spiraea
	*Common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, U.S. National Arboretum



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