

How to care for Encore Azaleas™

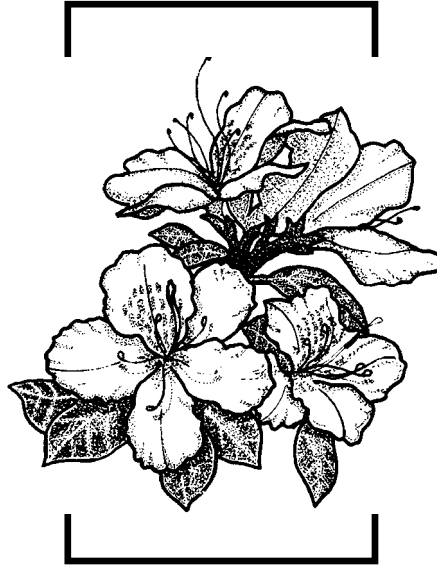
Encore Azaleas™ are similar to traditional azaleas in that they require proper planting, watering, and care to thrive in a new home. The following guidelines will help to ensure that your new plants grow to their full potential.

GROUND PREPARATION -

Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and fill it with water. If the hole drains within a few hours, you have good drainage. If the water is still standing 12 hours later, check the drainage in your yard, you may have to take corrective actions.

PLANTING - Encores perform best in partial shade, preferably afternoon shade. They will tolerate more sunlight but care must be taken to prevent them from exposure to drought or other heat related stress conditions.

Each Encore Azalea™ has its own unique growth habit. Some varieties might grow quite large, up to six or seven feet tall. Other Encore Azalea™ varieties will remain relatively small, growing to a maximum height of three to four feet. All varieties respond well to pruning, so a mature height shorter than the maximum can be easily maintained. The specific growing habit for each Encore Azalea™ can be found on



the care tag that was attached to the plant at the time of purchase.

Turn the soil well and dig a hole twice as wide as it is deep. Add Cornelius Azalea Planting Mix to the soil according to the Cornelius Azalea Information Sheet # 201. Remove the azalea from its container and loosen the root ball. Set the plant into your prepared hole, making sure the top of the root ball is above the soil level. Pull your soil around the plant, water in firmly and cover with mulch.

SPRING & SUMMER

PLANTING CARE - Water the azalea well when you first plant it and keep the soil moist until winter. New azaleas will die quickly when the soil dries excessively. Your new azalea

should not need regular watering after the first year unless there are periods of drought. Fertilize with the recommended levels of Cornelius Azalea/Camellia fertilizer once new growth appears.

FALL & WINTER PLANTING CARE -

Azaleas do well when they are planted at this time. New roots produced in the fall will help the azalea flourish in the next growing season. Although less watering is necessary, do not allow the roots to become dry. Cover your young azalea with insulating covering when extreme cold weather approaches. As your Encore Azalea™ matures, it will need less winter care. Fertilize your Encore Azalea™ through September or October. Once the danger of frost has passed, use Cornelius Azalea/Camellia fertilizer as directed.

PRUNING - Because Encore Azaleas™ are such prolific bloomers it often mystifies even the most ardent of gardeners as to when is the optimum time to trim. We have found that trimming immediately after the spring bloom cycle is the best time. Trimming at this time seems to limit disruption of future bloom cycles.



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