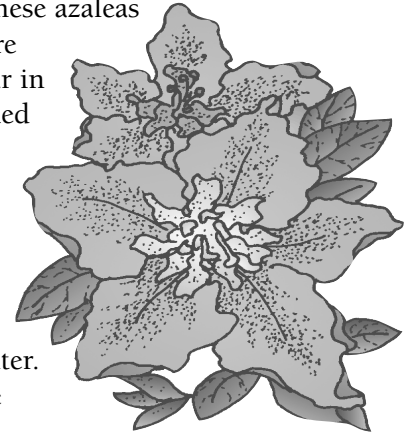


# Deciduous Azaleas

Deciduous azaleas are less well known than their evergreen family members. These azaleas lose their leaves in the winter and are therefore not as popular in this area where gardeners prefer evergreen leaves in the winter. All deciduous azaleas are similar in their need for moist well-drained, acid soil pH 4.5 to 5.5. Soil should be amended with peat moss or leaf mulch. Azaleas will grow in full sun or light shade, but light shade is often preferred. Deciduous azaleas flower later than most evergreen azaleas; late spring to early summer. The primary advantage that deciduous azaleas have over evergreen azaleas is that they are available in a range of unusual and exciting colors; from pale to lemon yellow to gold to tangerine to brilliant orange to red. The form of deciduous azaleas is tall and upright. Usually, for most, the need for privacy is greater in the summer than in the winter. Consider creating a screen of deciduous azaleas instead of duplicating the more common forsythia hedge that you see everywhere.



Exbury and Knap Hill hybrids are deciduous azaleas, upright growing, and normally grow from 8 to 12 feet in height, and about 4 to 5 feet in width. Plant zone range is zone 5 thru 7. Flower buds of these azaleas are generally hardy to -20 degrees. Healthy foliage, during spring and summer, is a medium green; in the fall leaves can turn crimson, yellow, or orange depending on the variety. Prune just after all blooms have died off to control the size of these azaleas in the home landscape. Yearly pruning will help to stimulate a greater number of flowers the following year. Here are some varieties we carry:

- ✿ **Gibraltar:** A bright orange flower flushed with red and fringed. Buds are very deep crimson orange on a plant that reaches 5-6' with a compact growing habit. One of the most popular Exbury hybrid azalea.
- ✿ **Klondike:** Massive display of fragrant, golden-tangerine single blooms. Moderate grower to 6 to 8 ft. tall and 4 to 6 ft. wide. This azalea is mildew resistant.
- ✿ **Kings Red:** Unusual deep red, ruffled flowers. Grows 5'x5'. Moderate growth rate.

The Northern Lights are a new group of deciduous azaleas from the University of Minnesota for areas where winter temperatures are severe. They are a group of beautiful shrubs that are cold hardy to zone 3 and flower bud hardy to minus 45°F

- ✿ **Orchid Lights Azalea:** The orchid-colored flowers are 1-1/2 inches across and are sterile, so seed capsules are not produced. Flower bud hardiness is rated at -45 degrees F. The compact plants of Orchid Lights will mature at an average height of three feet and a spread of three to four feet.
- ✿ **Rosy Lights Azalea:** The flower color is a deep rosy pink and the plants produce an abundance of blooms. Plant height and spread is about eight feet.
- ✿ **Mandarin Lights:** Ruffled, bright red-orange flowers with a light fragrance. Plant blooms in late May and has an upright rounded form with an abundance of blooms.
- ✿ **Lemon Lights:** This plant features an abundance of bright lemon yellow flowers. It is a vigorous grower to 4-5' high.