

PLANTING AND CARE OF RHODODENDRONS

Planting your Rhododendron

Rhododendrons prefer a location that has well drained soil and high broken shade.

When you are ready to plant, dig a hole slightly larger than the root ball. Mix the soil with equal amounts of bark. Fill the hole approximately half full with the mixture. If the root ball is dry, it should be soaked before planting. If the root ball contains clay it is best to rinse away as much of the clay as possible before planting.

Container grown plants may be root bound. The root balls should be cut, and roots loosened before planting. Score the root vertically on four sides and then set the plant in the prepared hole. The top of the root ball should be 1-1/2 inches higher than the surrounding soil. Use the rest of the mix to fill in around the plant. Mound the soil around the side of the plant. Leave the top of the root ball uncovered so water will penetrate easily. Pack the soil gently around the root ball and water lightly and thoroughly.

After planting mulch with bark, wood chips, pine needles or other organic material to conserve moisture, keep the soil cool and restrict the growth of weeds.

Compliments of:

**The Siuslaw Chapter
of**

The American Rhododendron Society

<http://www.siuslawars.org/>

Care of your Rhododendron

It is very important to water your plant frequently for the first year. In Western Oregon the months of July and August can be very dry. Water thoroughly at least once a week.

Rhododendrons, because of their shallow roots, should not be cultivated. Weeds may be pulled or shaved with a sharp hoe. Chemical weed killers may be used with caution, following directions carefully.

Base your use of fertilizer on what you have found to be good for your other garden plants. Use a mixture containing nitrogen such as ammonium sulfate, often called "Rhododendron and Azalea Fertilizer". At planting scatter a small amount on top of the soil before mulching. Later applications should be on top of the mulch and watered in.

Start fertilizing in February and continue in two-month intervals. If planting in sand, fertilize each month starting in February. Fertilize lightly at intervals suggested for best results. No applications should be made after the first of November.

Removing faded blooms tends to encourage flower buds for the following season. This process called "deadheading" will provide your plant with stimulus for stronger new growth particularly on young plants.