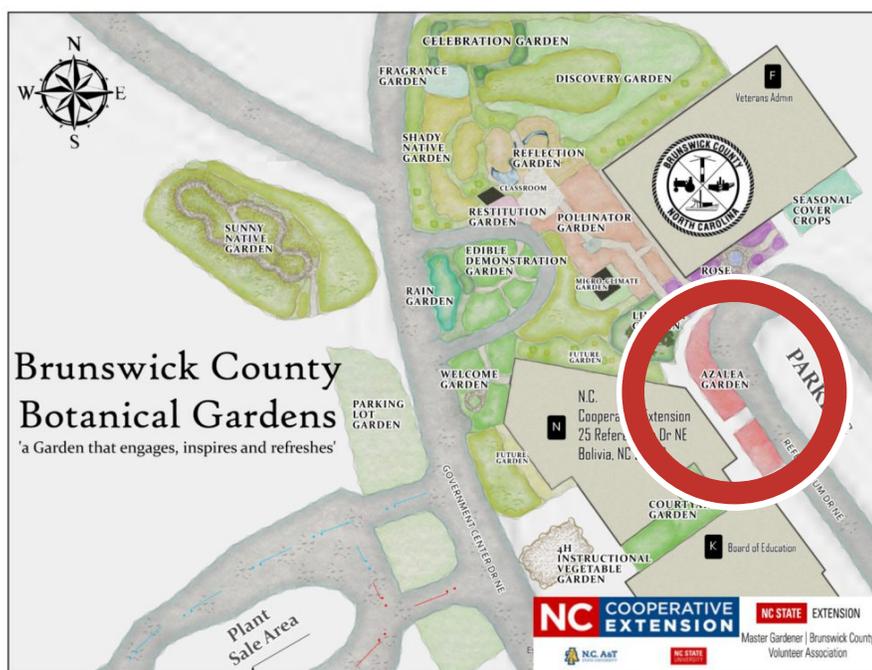


The Azalea Garden

These gardens are maintained by
Brunswick County Extension Master
GardenerSM Volunteers



Azaleas belong to the family of Genus Rhododendron. There are both evergreen and deciduous Azaleas. The different varieties of Azaleas are classified as being species or hybrids. Species grow from seed; hybrids are crosses between other species or hybrids. There are over 10,000 different varieties of Azaleas that have been named.

Azaleas are essentially pest free, require little care, and are easy to grow.

The Azalea is available in various sizes, colors, and bloom time. The Encore Azaleas in this garden bloom in both the Spring and Fall. Encore Azaleas have 29 different colors and sizes and do well in both sunny locations and partial shade.

SUN REQUIREMENTS

In general, Azaleas grow better in shade. Encore Azaleas, however, prefer a minimum of 4-6 hours of sunlight a day. They also grow well in high filtered light.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

All Azaleas are acid-loving plants. The soil pH should be between 5.5-6.5 and should be well drained. Azaleas do not like to have wet feet and good drainage is essential. In sandy soil, mix organic materials with the soil is advised. Adding a layer of mulch is essential to retain moisture, keep weeds out and to maintain even soil temperature.

FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS

New plants require some fertilizer. An all-purpose slow release fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 or 16-4-8 works well as does an Azalea specific fertilizer. Do not fertilize until after the last frost and try not to fertilize after August.

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WATER REQUIREMENTS

All newly planted shrubs should be watered well when first planted. The soil should be kept moist until winter. After the first year your Azalea should not require regular watering unless there are periods of extended drought.

PRUNING

Encore Azaleas require very little pruning. If pruning is desired, it should be done immediately after the spring flowering. For more established plants, a light pruning will stimulate new growth and flowering.