

Planting Encore® Azaleas

Planting Steps:

1. Turn the soil well and dig a hole twice as wide as it is deep.
2. Mix some organic material with some soil. Put a little bit of this mixture into the hole.
3. Remove the azalea from its container and loosen the root ball lightly with your fingers.
4. Set the plant into your prepared hole, making sure the top of the root ball is slightly above soil level. Make sure the root ball is moist.
5. Pull the soil around the plant, water thoroughly and cover with mulch.

Key Features:

- Encore Azaleas perform best in sun to high filtered shade. Four to six hours of sun or filtered shade per day will help guarantee optimal blooms.
- Dry, windy conditions and severe drought can impact performance, but once established, Encore Azaleas are tolerant of more intense stresses.
- Best in USDA Zones 6-9. For zones 5-6, introduce in a sheltered location during spring.

Tips:

- Encore Azaleas will suffer or die if planted too deeply. Plant them so that the top of the root ball is even with or slightly above the existing soil level.
- Spring planting requires watering well. Keep soil moist until winter.
- Newly planted azaleas require routine watering the first year, but once established, do not require frequent watering. Cover young azaleas in extreme conditions. do not fertilize until after the last frost.
- Remember to water in times of drought.

How to Prune Encore® Azaleas

Encore® Azaleas require very little pruning to retain good form and do not need "dead-heading".

If you think your Encore® Azalea needs pruning, do so immediately after the spring flowering for maximum bud set. Light pruning of more established plants will stimulate growth and flowering. Prune tall shoots back inside the body of the plant.

What about in the Fall?

If you prune later in the year, you will be clipping off the buds that have set for the next bloom cycle.