

Catawba Rhododendron



Prolific lavender flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds

Rhododendron catawbiense 'Grandiflorum'

- **Use:** It is native to the eastern U.S. from Maryland to Kentucky south to Alabama and Georgia, with concentrations in alpine woodlands, rocky slopes and ridges in the Appalachian Mountains from Virginia to Georgia where it often forms dense thickets.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun to shade. As with other azaleas, the partial shade of tall trees overhead is the ideal. True to its name, swamp azalea enjoys a soggy spot but can not have its roots submerged in water. It will tolerate some drought. Grow in full sun or partial shade in acidic soil. Prune after flowering for best shape.
- Grows best in moist, well-drained, organic soils with a pH range from 4.5 to 6.0. "Well-drained" is the key. **Planting it in places that don't drain well is a sure death sentence.**
- **Growth:** Slow growing; reaches 5-6 ft. tall and wide. Ideally, plant them where they will not require pruning.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-8; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Leaves up to 4" long, light green leaves. Fall foliage is orange to maroon.
- **Flower:** Funnel-shaped lavender-pink flowers have green to yellow-brown throat markings. Flowers bloom mid to late spring in compact showy clusters, each containing 15-20 flowers. Flowers are followed by elongated dry seed capsules which mature in fall. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and wildlife. Flowers are a nectar source for butterflies.

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