



Azalea

Rhododendron

Azalea respond well to being grown in containers and root pruning. They will even backbud reliably on old wood. Appreciate them for their spectacular spring flowers and many small-leaved hybrids to choose from.

Species

Often Used For Bonsai

R. indicum x R.simsii
Satsuki Azalea

R. kaempferi x R.kiusianum x R.obtusum
Kurume Azalea

Styles

To Choose From



Informal Upright
"Moyogi"



Twin Trunk
"Sokan"



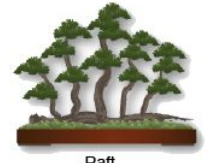
Slanting
"Shakkan"



Semi-Cascade
"Han-kengai"



Multiple Trunk
"Kabudachi"



Raft
"Ikadabuki"

Seasonal

Tasks for Care and Styling



Native to Asia, Europe and N.America, the wide-ranging azalea live at all elevations. They need acidic soil and should not be allowed to dry out or to become soggy.



Spring

- Repot every 2 years after flowering
- Prune roots more directly underneath trunk base to create a concave
- Start weekly feedings of balanced organic fertilizer for acid loving plants until tree flowers



Summer

- Remove spent flowers and ovaries
- Resume fertilizer, but only monthly
- Prune new shoots down to just 2
- Likes filtered sun or shade
- Water often to avoid drying out



Fall

- Switch to low nitrogen fertilizer in fall to encourage spring flowers
- Do major work to wire and shape tree in November; careful of brittle branches
- Prune more at base and sides than the top; azalea are basally dominant



Winter

- Some varieties require winter protection from coldest days in cold room or garage
- Soggy winter soil is a threat so provide tree with shelter from rain

