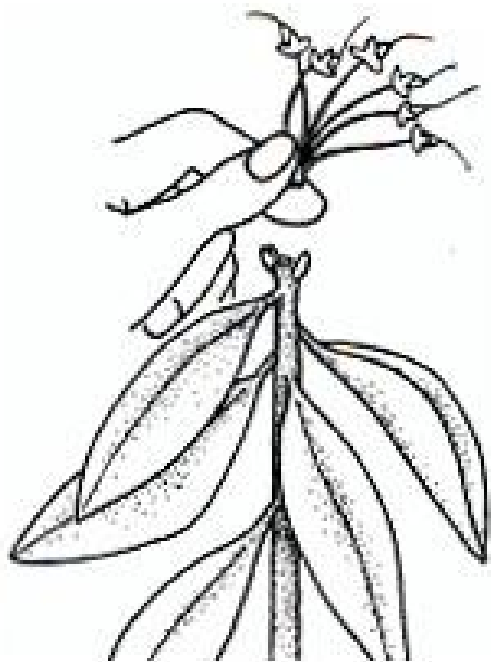


Deadhead rhododendrons by breaking off spent flowers. Be careful of buds under the flower.



To increase blooming in rhododendrons, pinch the tips of new growth in the spring.



## Deadheading Rhododendrons

# KACKENHOFF NURSERIES LTD

## GROWING RHODODENDRONS & AZALEAS

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

#### **WHERE TO GROW**

Both rhododendrons and azaleas do best in a sheltered site where they will have a fairly deep covering of snow throughout the winter months. The site should be sunny in summer but partially shaded in winter, and protected from winter winds. Because of their shallow root system, rhododendrons and azaleas require soil that is uniformly moist, but never soggy. They also require an acidic soil with a pH in the range of 4.5 to 5.5 for best results. If your soil is too alkaline, as is the case in the Winnipeg region, the pH can be lowered by adding peat moss, sulfur, iron sulfate or chelate to the soil.

#### **HOW TO PLANT**

When planting, it is important not to plant too deep. Roots of these acid-loving plants tend to be in the upper 4 to 6" (10-15cm) of soil and need to be near the surface for aeration. To plant, dig a hole at least 24" (60cm) wide and 24" (60cm) deep. Place a 4" (10cm) layer of wood chips in the bottom of the hole; add a 6" (15cm) layer of peat moss. Remove the plant from its container and place the plant in the hole so that the top of the root ball is slightly above the existing soil level. Back-fill around the plant with a mixture of 2/3 peat moss and 1/3 soil. Mulching with peat moss, shredded bark mulch, pine or spruce needles to a depth of 3 to 5" (8-12cm) is beneficial for controlling weeds, retaining moisture and adding organic matter. Once planted rhododendrons and azaleas benefit from the application of an acidic fertilizer such as evergreen food (30-10-10) once a month until the end of July.

Rhododendrons and azaleas must be protected from the winter sun and frigid temperatures. Building a tent of burlap around your plants and filling the tent with leaves or straw works well.

Pruning is seldom required however to increase blooms, deadhead the plants and pinch the new growth after flowering to allow flower buds to form for next spring's bloom.

*Plants are more often killed by overwatering rather than underwatering.*

*Our Business is Growing!!*

1317 Hwy # 75 St

fax 204.269.7521