Snavely's GARDEN CORNER

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Girard's Karen Azalea

Rhododendron 'Girard's Karen'



Girard's Karen Azalea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Evergreen Azalea

Group/Class: Girard Hybrid

Description:

A lovely variety with stunning lavender-pink bloos in mid-spring, creating an impressive border or low screen; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil



Girard's Karen Azalea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Girard's Karen Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of hot pink trumpet-shaped flowers with lavender overtones at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The glossy narrow leaves remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Girard's Karen Azalea is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Girard's Karen Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Girard's Karen Azalea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.