



## ***Rhododendron* x 'Fashion' 'Fashion' Azalea<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Introduction**

Most are relatively short and serve well as ground cover shrubs. Flowers are large, of various colors, and occur late (June) so they are not injured by cold.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Rhododendron* x 'Fashion'

**Pronunciation:** roe-duh-DEN-drun

**Common name(s):** 'Fashion' azalea

**Family:** *Ericaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7 through 10A (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter; attracts butterflies; cut flowers; accent; foundation

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### **Description**

**Height:** 3 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 4 to 6 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

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**Figure 1.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

#### **Flower**

**Flower color:** salmon

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; fall flowering; winter flowering

#### **Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

#### **Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multitunked or clumping stems; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk

**Current year stem/twig color:** brown

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

#### **Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; clay; loam; sand

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

Leaves infected with *Phytophthora* dieback turn brown, roll, then drop off. The stem shrivels and a canker forms, eventually girdling the stem. Prune out diseased branch tips.

Powdery mildews of different genera form a white coating on the leaves.

Leaf spots may be caused by any number of fungi.

## Use and Management

The most popular cultivars in the group are in the Gumpo series: 'Gumpo Pink' - pink ruffled flowers; 'Gumpo Rose' - rose colored flowers; 'Gumpo White' - white ruffled flowers, often with purple speckles.

Black vine weevil and strawberry weevil adults feed at night, notching the leaf margins and making holes in the leaves. The larvae feed on the roots and bark, girdling and killing the plant.

Lace bugs cause leaf yellowing, particularly when plants are heated in too much sun. Brown specks on the undersides of leaves are insect excrement. Sunny sites may lead to higher lace bug populations.

Mites cause leaf discoloration.

Scales may be found on branches and stems of unhealthy looking plants. Use dormant oil in spring.

## Pests and Diseases

Gray blight infection follows an injury, such as winter injury. A spot, which is at first white with a dark brown margin, forms on the leaf. Protect plants from winter injury.

Dieback is also called *Botryosphaeria* canker. The leaves are attacked near the tips or at the margins; then spots form on the entire leaf. Leaf stalks and twigs are eventually infected. Prune off infected parts.