

AZALEA 'GIRARD'S HOT SHOT'

Rhododendron 'Girard's Hot Shot'



Family:	Ericaceae
Native to:	China, the Himalayas and Myanmar
Hardiness Zones:	5 to 8
Bloom Time:	May
Height:	2 to 3 feet
Spread:	3 to 4 feet
Bloom:	Reddish-orange with dark red spotting

BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUB

Culture:

'Girard's Hot Shot' is an evergreen azalea that features dark reddish-orange flowers with dark red spotting. It typically matures over time in a rounded compact form to 2-3' tall and to 3-4' wide. Small, single, funnel-shaped flowers (to 2 1/2" across) bloom in clusters in mid-season to late-mid-season. Small, glossy, medium green leaves (to 1 1/8" long) are evergreen. Leaves become dark yellow-green in winter. Parents are *R.* 'El Capitan' x *R.* 'Aladdin'.

Did you know?

Rhododendron is a genus of 500 to 900 species and includes both of what is commonly called rhododendrons and azaleas. Most are evergreen, but some are deciduous. True rhododendrons have 10 stamens in a flower and azaleas have only 5. Much hybridization has resulted in a great number of hybrid cultivars.

Evergreen azaleas develop as multi-stemmed plants from the ground and usually grow 3-5 feet tall. They retain their leaves throughout the year and are not as winter hardy as the deciduous azaleas. In cold winters flower buds may be frozen resulting in reduced or no flowering and foliage may winter burn (turn brown). Color range is mostly from white to pink, red, lavender and purple.

Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators love the bright flowers.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *rhodo* meaning rose and *dendron* meaning tree.