Rhododendron, Bubble Gum

Rhododendron 'Bubblegum'



Rhododendron, Bubble Gum flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

Single pink blooms, small foliage, and showy red stems set this variety apart; low compact habit is great for low border; flowers appear larger against the small foliage giving a greater visual impact as an accent shrub



Rhododendron, Bubble Gum in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Rhododendron, Bubble Gum is covered in stunning clusters of lightly-scented pink trumpet-shaped flowers with white throats and brown anthers at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The small narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Rhododendron, Bubble Gum is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. 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.

Rhododendron, Bubble Gum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rhododendron, Bubble Gum will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy. 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 partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. 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.

Rhododendron, Bubble Gum makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.