

Admiral Semmes Rhododendron



**This fragrant beauty
is hard to find and
heat tolerant!**

Rhododendron 'Admiral Semmes' ('Hotspur Yellow' X austrinum)

- **Use:** The Confederate Series of deciduous azaleas was introduced by Dodd & Dodd Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama. An excellent large-flowered Exbury Azalea was crossed with the heat-tolerant, native Florida Azalea, *R. austrinum*, and the results are large-flowered, fragrant, heat tolerant cultivars. *R. 'Admiral Semmes'* was named after the famous Confederate Admiral Raphael Semmes whose record of 87 ships sunk or captured remains unbroken to this day.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun to shade. As with other azaleas, the partial shade of tall trees overhead is the ideal. It will adapt to full-sun sites, though. You just need to water it during times when it isn't raining enough. Grows best in moist, well-drained, organic soils with a pH range from 4.5 to 6.0. "Well-drained" is the key. Planting it in places that don't drain well is a sure death sentence.
- **Growth:** Habit is upright and bushy. Grows 10-12' tall and 4-6' wide.
- **Hardiness:** 5-9 Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Very lustrous dark green leaves turn orange-bronze in fall. The handsome leaves are exceptionally mildew free.
- **Flower:** The plant bears beautiful medium yellow-flowers with deeper dorsal flares and pleasing fragrance in May.