

# Gibraltar Exbury Azalea



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

## *Rhododendron 'Gibraltar'*

- **Use:** 'Gibraltar' received Rhododendron of the Year honors in 2007 from the American Rhododendron Society, and is an Exbury hybrid introduced in 1947. Unlike their Asian cousins, these native species lose their leaves in winter and grow open and upright rather than forming dense mounds. Flowers are spectacular. This low-maintenance, fragrant plant is excellent for borders, containers, and woodland gardens.
- **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, but leaf burn will occur in late summer in the South. Drought tolerant once established, 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:** It is an upright shrub that grows 4 to 6 ft. tall and 3 to 5 ft. wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-8 Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Very lustrous dark green leaves turn orange-bronze in fall. The handsome leaves are exceptionally mildew free.
- **Flower:** It has large, fragrant, ball-shaped trusses of 2 3/8 to 3 in. wide flowers with broad, frilly lobed, vivid orange petals.

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