

Patsy's Pink Native Rhododendron



Gorgeous balls of coral pink blossoms! We love these for the spring fragrance and blast of color.



Rhododendron 'Patsy's Pink' (Smitty hybrid)

- **Use:** Breeder Renford Smitherman. Cinnamon Spice fragrance named after the breeder's wife Patsy. Native azaleas are often more fragrant than regular azaleas and produce nectar and pollen throughout more of the year than their imported relatives. Those traits draw bees and butterflies as well as birds (including hummingbirds) and other animals to them, ultimately helping sustain the local ecosystem. Sadly, habitat destruction has severely diminished many pockets of wild native azaleas, but groups of guardians are working hard to preserve and expand native azalea numbers.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun to shade. As with other azaleas, the partial shade of tall trees overhead is the ideal. You just need to water it during times when it isn't raining enough. Plant them shallowly and mulch well to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. 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:** Moderate grower to 6 to 8 ft. tall, 4 to 6 ft. wide in an upright habit. The flower buds develop in summer for the following spring's display, so prune shortly after flowering, if necessary. Ideally, plant them where they will not require pruning.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 6-9; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Leaves up to 4" long, light green leaves.
- **Flower:** Fragrant clusters of deep pink honeysuckle-like flowers bloom in early spring. It is a hybrid whose mother was a white form of *R. colemanii*, and the pollen was provided by *R. 'Gibraltar'*.

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