

Don's Variegated Native Rhododendron



Perfect for use as a large shrub or small, understory tree in woodland borders or other areas of the landscape that provide dappled shade or morning sun with afternoon shade. Use it as a specimen or plant several in a cluster.



Rhododendron 'Don's variegated'

- **Use:** There are very few variegated native azaleas and Don's Variegated, with its bright green leaves with creamy marbled flecks, is one of them. But it's the bright orange blooms of this Austrinum variety that really steal the show! It tolerates heavy frost, freezing temperatures, drought, and hot and/or humid conditions so is a perfect selection for gardens in the South.
- **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 10 ft. tall, 3 to 5 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:** 7-8; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Leaves up to 4" long, light green with variegated leaves.
- **Flower:** One of the first to show color in the spring, usually starting to flower in late March and early April, producing an abundant trusses of large, fragrant, bright orange flowers borne before and while the leaves are emerging in spring.

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