

Mooshatanio Native Azalea



Rhododendron x austrinum 'Mooshatanio' (*Rhododendron* 'Hotspur Yellow' x *R.* 'Exbury')

- **Use:** Named after a north American native Indian princess in the song by Jimmy Driftwood, 'Mooshatanio' is a choice, rare selection of our native Florida Flame Azalea. It is native from northern Florida and southern Georgia west to southern Alabama and Mississippi where it is most often found in moist woods and along streams. Fragrant, funnel-shaped flowers in dense clusters (8-15 flowers per cluster) bloom in early spring just before or as the foliage emerges.
- **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:** Zone 7-8; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. One of the most heat and humidity tolerant of all the native azaleas, it is a more vigorous grower than the species. Mildew-free, dark green leaves turn orange-bronze in fall for extra appeal.
- **Flower:** This beauty will dominate the landscape with an absolutely breathtaking and abundant display of dark red buds that open to brilliant orange-red flowers in large ball trusses that exude a wonderful honeysuckle-like sweet fragrance in the garden. The pistil and stamens extend well beyond the mouth of the flower in a graceful upward curve.



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.

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