

Aubie Native Azalea



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 austrinum x 'Aubie' (austrinum X Gibraltar)

- **Use:** *Rhododendron austrinum* x 'Aubie' is a wonderful selection made by the folks at Auburn University (from the late Dr Smitterman). The flowers produce a delightful honeysuckle-like fragrance that is enjoyed by butterflies, hummingbirds and humans alike. One of the most heat and humidity tolerant of all the native azaleas. Lustrous, mildew-free, dark green leaves turn orange-bronze in fall.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun (morning sun /afternoon shade is best) 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 large orange 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.

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