

## **Autumn Amethyst Azalea** (*Rhododendron* spp. Autumn Amethyst)

Growing from 4 to 6 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide, the Autumn Amethyst's dark lavender with red spotting blooms emerge in April and May.



**Plant Care:** Best grown in acidic, organically rich, humusy, medium moisture, moisture-retentive but well-drained soils in part shade. Prefers a sun dappled or high open shade. Morning sun with afternoon shade is also acceptable. Leaves may scorch in hot afternoon sun. Plant in a location protected from strong winds. Plants perform well on north or east facing slopes. Clip off spent flower clusters immediately after bloom as practicable. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Planted en masse, it may be used as a hedge.

**Watering:** Good soil drainage is essential (plants do not like “wet feet”). Poor drainage inevitably leads to root rot, therefore raised beds/plantings should be considered in heavy clay soils such as those present in much of the Atlanta area. Shallow, fibrous root systems (do not cultivate around plants) will benefit greatly from a mulch (e.g., wood chips, bark or pine needles) to help retain moisture and stabilize soil temperatures. Roots must never be allowed to dry out.

### **References:**

[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)