

“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners”

***Rhododendron austrinum* ‘Ball Truss’ by Nadine Scott**

Common name: Native azalea

Family name: Ericaceae

I love native azaleas for their outstanding colors and sweet aromas. They will perfume your garden. The blooms last for two or three weeks at least. More and more native azaleas are now available at nurseries and even the big box stores. The first ones I purchased came from a native plant mail-order nursery in Florida. They sold straight natives and a few cultivars. Natives azaleas are preferred by me over smaller bloom non-natives that bloom for a short time and then look bedraggled. The apricot flowers open in early April to May depending on the weather. This year they were open in late March to early April. Non-cultivars can grow quite tall and really make a statement in your garden. There are several in the garden that are 10 to 12 feet tall. This plant came from a silent auction at a Chesapeake Master Gardener function.



Grow to 8’ in well-drained acidic soil, in partial to full sun.

Plant in zones 6 through 9. Non-cultivars can grow quite tall and really make a statement in your garden. There are several in the garden that are 10 to 12 feet tall.

Photo by Nadine Scott

Resource: <https://hgic.clemson.edu/>

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