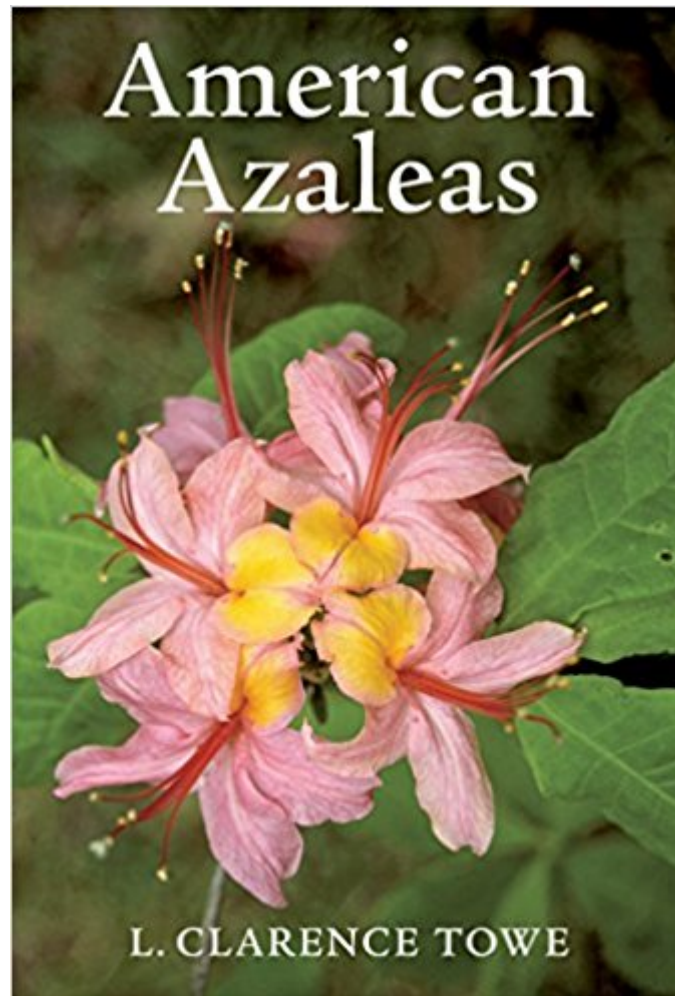




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American Azaleas



Synopsis

Other than a few Asiatic and one European species, North America is home to all the deciduous azaleas, members of the genus *Rhododendron*. There are native American azaleas suitable for a wide variety of garden environments. Gardeners interested in knowing more about these attractive, usually fragrant shrubs will discover here the diversity to be found in the species and will learn about recent trends in cultivation, selection, and hybridization. American azaleas are not used as much as they should be in gardens and in landscaping, even in areas where the plants are native and are common along roadsides. The author offers expert recommendations on all the horticultural aspects important for growing these colorful shrubs, including siting, soil preparation, and companion plantings. His coverage of the native species and the cultivars is comprehensive and up to date. The book provides all that the reader needs to enjoy the year-round pleasures offered by American azaleas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although few plants evoke the lazy gentility of southern gardens or the lush tranquility of woodland glens the way azaleas do, for most gardeners they remain an unattainable goal, a shrub desired but seldom incorporated in landscape design. Miscast as being temperamental or confined to precise pockets of geography, azaleas are, in reality, remarkably suited for most garden settings in all but a few parts of the country. Towe, an azalea breeder and dedicated azalea aficionado, speaks from a quarter-century of observational and practical experience. Writing with a folksy good humor about

the charm of collecting azaleas, Towe can be professorially fastidious when relaying information about nomenclature and hybridization. Along the way, he covers all the basics of azalea culture, from planting and pruning to selecting and siting. Helpful information outlining appropriate companion plants aids in developing a pleasing landscape design, while precise propagation details and appendixes listing azalea organizations and nurseries offer valuable information. Carol Haggas

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“This is a lively book to read, even if one has not a single thought of adding an azalea.”
•American Reference Books Annual
“Towe’s species descriptions are the most straightforward and most complete that I have seen in any book.”
•American Gardener
“Towe provides the reader with not only the basics of growing them successfully, but with the more technical aspects of their culture, including propagation.”
•People Places Plants
“Evident in the book is Towe’s firsthand experience with native azaleas and his personal knowledge of their habits and cultivation. . . . The native azalea enthusiast will find Towe’s book a needed and cherished addition to the bookshelf. The more casual reader will likely join the ranks of the azalea enthusiasts upon reading the book.”
•Nativescape
“A welcome addition to the library of books on rhododendrons.”
•American Rhododendron Society Journal
“Charm and enthusiasm. . . shines through the text.”
•Trenton Times
“Towe provides a handy list of growers, as well as the names of plant societies devoted to azaleas. Altogether a useful and much-needed book on a group of native plants that deserve to be better known.”
•Newark Star-Ledger
“Stories of collecting with his buddies show Towe’s sense of humor; as does [his] cultivating advice.”
•E-Streams
“Towe has produced an informative book leavened with experiences gleaned from more than 25 years as an observer and grower of native azaleas.”
•Anderson Independent-Mail
“Typically, I browse garden books more like reference books; piecemeal, when I need them. American Azaleas I read cover-to-cover.”
•Uniontown Herald-Standard
“It will be indispensable to any gardener wishing to grow and enjoy our native azaleas.”
•Gardening Newsletter

In a weak moment, or maybe it was several weak moments, of forgetfulness, I wound up with three or four books on Azaleas. While I do that more often than I should admit, it never seems that any

one is that "one too many". This is well written, not overly scholarly, and nicely presented. Like most books on a subject, it covers a lot of common ground but has a few tidbits of information that the others lack. I guess that you can have too many azaleas in your yard, but they add such nice color, and permanent color, to the shade landscape in the south that they are a plant that comes quickly to mind.

Very helpful book

This book is all I expected with considerable information on growing and propagating Azaleas. The book's condition was as stated and it was delivered within the stated timeframe

This book had too much technical information for the average Azalea grower.

The book covers its subject with wit and charm; perhaps a bit more on individual species would have helped but this is a very minor quibble. I find that Timber Press horticultural books are first rate.

Informative, well written!

America is home to almost all the deciduous azaleas. Here in the Northwest, *Rhododendron occidentale* grows with its wonderful spicy fragrance. The book presents the 15 species found in the United States. The author discusses, collecting from the wild, growing, landscaping, and propagating azaleas. Azalea organizations, and sources are listed in the appendix.

none

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