



**Elsie Lee Azalea**  
*Rhododendron 'Elsie Lee'*

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5b

**Description:**

Clusters of pink blooms with lavender highlights, some semi or double, cover this azalea in mid to late spring; a compact rounded shrub with attractive leaves that progress to yellow in the fall; needs highly acidic and organic soil that is well drained

**Ornamental Features**

Elsie Lee Azalea is covered in stunning clusters of lightly-scented pink trumpet-shaped flowers with lavender overtones, white throats and a red blotch at the ends of the branches from mid to late spring before the leaves. It has green foliage throughout the season. The glossy narrow leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

**Landscape Attributes**

Elsie Lee Azalea is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Elsie Lee Azalea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



*Elsie Lee Azalea flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Elsie Lee Azalea flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



### **Planting & Growing**

Elsie Lee Azalea will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the leaves in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.