P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron

Rhododendron 'P.J.M. Elite Star'



P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Group/Class: P.J.M. Series

Description:

A beautiful, compact evergreen shrub with showy lilac flowers in spring and an upright habit, very hardy, interesting fall coloration; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting

Ornamental Features

P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron is draped in stunning clusters of lilac purple trumpet-shaped flowers with cherry red spots at the ends of the branches in early spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds. It has green evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow leaves turn an outstanding plum purple in the fall, which persists throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron is an open multi-stemmed evergreen 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.

P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

P.J.M. Elite Star Rhododendron will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. 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. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. 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 foliage 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.