

# How to Grow and Manage Azaleas

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**D**URING the growing period the azalea should have a temperature of from fifty to sixty degrees. Other conditions being favorable it will grow and bloom in a temperature anywhere from forty to eighty degrees, but these extremes are not recommended, particularly the latter, which is not only hard on the plant, but the plant is in such a hot, dry atmosphere that the red spider, which usually does not trouble the azalea, becomes its implacable enemy. When the presence of this pest is evident, spray with clear water or a weak solution of soap and water rinsing after with clear water or the top of the plant may be dipped in the water, which insures the thorough wetting of every part. During this period the plant should be given all the light and sunshine possible with fresh air whenever it can be given without a draft.

Liquid fertilizer may be given if great care is exercised. The great trouble with many amateurs is they think if a little is good twice that quantity is that much better. Many a man and many a woman has found it to be a fatal maxim when the plants became chronic dyspeptics, neither fit to live nor ready to die. For liquid fertilizer use cow manure or guano. Use the latter according to directions on package.

To make liquid fertilizer from cow manure fill a jar or pail full of manure, and pour enough boiling rain water over it to fill the receptacle. This will make a liquid strong enough to kill almost any plant. The color will be almost black. When ready for use add enough of this liquid to a can of water to give it a light brown color. Of this strength it may be used to give the plant a thorough soaking once in two weeks. If the room is of moderate temperature and the atmosphere kept moist, watering once in ten days or two weeks ought to be sufficient. But no cast iron rule can be made regarding the frequency with which watering may be done, owing to the extent to which conditions of soil, temperature and atmosphere may vary.

## THE BLOOMING PERIOD

During the blooming period the treatment is somewhat similar to that mentioned. Continue to give it light and sunshine. Liquid fertilizer may now be given once a week with a little closer attention to the watering. The plant will consume more now than during the growing period, and while it must not be kept wet, the soil must not be allowed to dry right out or the buds will blast and the bloom wither. If red spider is suspected, try to get a cooler situation, as wetting the leaves will not injure the flowers. If the atmosphere

is dry, place a shallow pan of water on the radiator, the heater or in some place where the evaporation will be fairly rapid, say about one and a half pints in twenty-four hours for 1500 cubic feet of air space.

After the blooming period is over the plant completes its annual growth and should now receive water less frequently. When the weather becomes warm put it out in the open air, a shady place on the porch where it will get only the early morning or late afternoon sun, will answer. Or it may be sunk in the flower border. When the latter is done select a place sheltered from the noon-day sun—but not dense shade—and put half an inch of ashes under the pot to prevent worms entering at the bottom. Leave it here until about the first or middle of September, by which time it will have completed its annual growth.

## THE RESTING PERIOD

When the plant has completed its

yearly growth and has commenced to take its periodical rest it may be set away on some back shelf, where it will be out of the way, but not entirely forgotten. During this period it should not lose its leaves, although it will be at a complete standstill. Water should now be given very seldom, once in three weeks should be sufficient if the temperature is not over sixty and the atmosphere moist. About the last of November begin to look for new growth. Most sorts do not start until about the new year, but some varieties are earlier than others, and at the first sign of returning animation bring to the light and water more frequently.

If at any time the azalea should lose its leaves in considerable quantities it is a danger signal which must not be lightly regarded. The indicator points to too much water or poor drainage, and the matter must be remedied at once. The azalea's demands are few but they are imperative.

## A Prize Winning Lawn and Garden

**O**NE of the prettiest homes in the City of Guelph is shown in the illustrations on this page. It is the residence of Mr. J. A. Hewitt, who has won the first prize in the lawn competition in his ward in that city for years. One of the judges in the lawn and garden competition, conducted by the

Guelph Horticultural Society, is Mr. Wm. Hunt of the Ontario Agricultural College, who in a recent letter to THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST wrote in reference to this home: "Mr. Hewitt is quite an enthusiast and expert in the culture of plants and flowers. Although Guelph has many pretty residences there



Front View of a Prize Winning Home and Lawn—Residence of Mr. J. A. Hewitt, Guelph