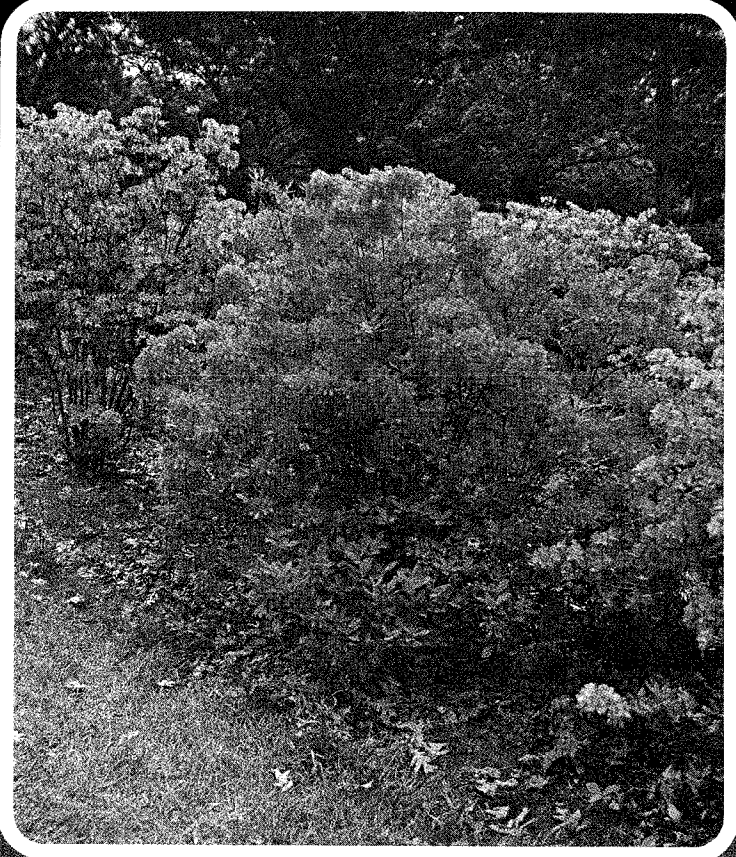


Northern Lights



**NEW
WINTER
HARDY
AZALEA
HYBRIDS**

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NEW WINTER HARDY AZALEA HYBRIDS

Northern Lights Hybrids are the only winter hardy azaleas that can be counted on to produce full bloom every year in the Upper Midwest. Flower buds can withstand winter temperatures of -45°F without injury. Plants are compact in growth habit and mature at about 6 to 7 feet in height and spread. They produce a spectacular display of flowers in late May or early June. The 1½-inch flowers are borne in clusters of up to a dozen flowers each with clusters up to 3 to 4 inches wide. Flowers range from light to deep pink in color and have the pleasing fragrance of the rose shell azaleas.

Plants are deciduous and the new leaves expand with the flowers. Fully expanded leaves are dark green, 1 inch wide and 3 to 4 inches long.

Northern Lights azaleas were developed by the late Albert G. Johnson. These F₁ hybrids resulted from crosses between Mollis Hybrids and the Rose Shell azaleas (*Rhododendron x kosteranum* x *Rhododendron prinophyllum [roseum]*). Since these hybrids are grown from seed produced from controlled crosses, there will be minor differences in plant form, size, and flower color. Plants from the initial crosses, made in 1957, are now growing at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum at Chaska, Minnesota and have produced outstanding bloom every year.

Plants require an acid soil for best growth. However, they can be grown successfully in soil of neutral pH if an ample amount of acid peat is used for backfilling around the roots and if plants are fertilized annually with an acid fertilizer.

Plants will be available through Minnesota nurseries in spring 1979.