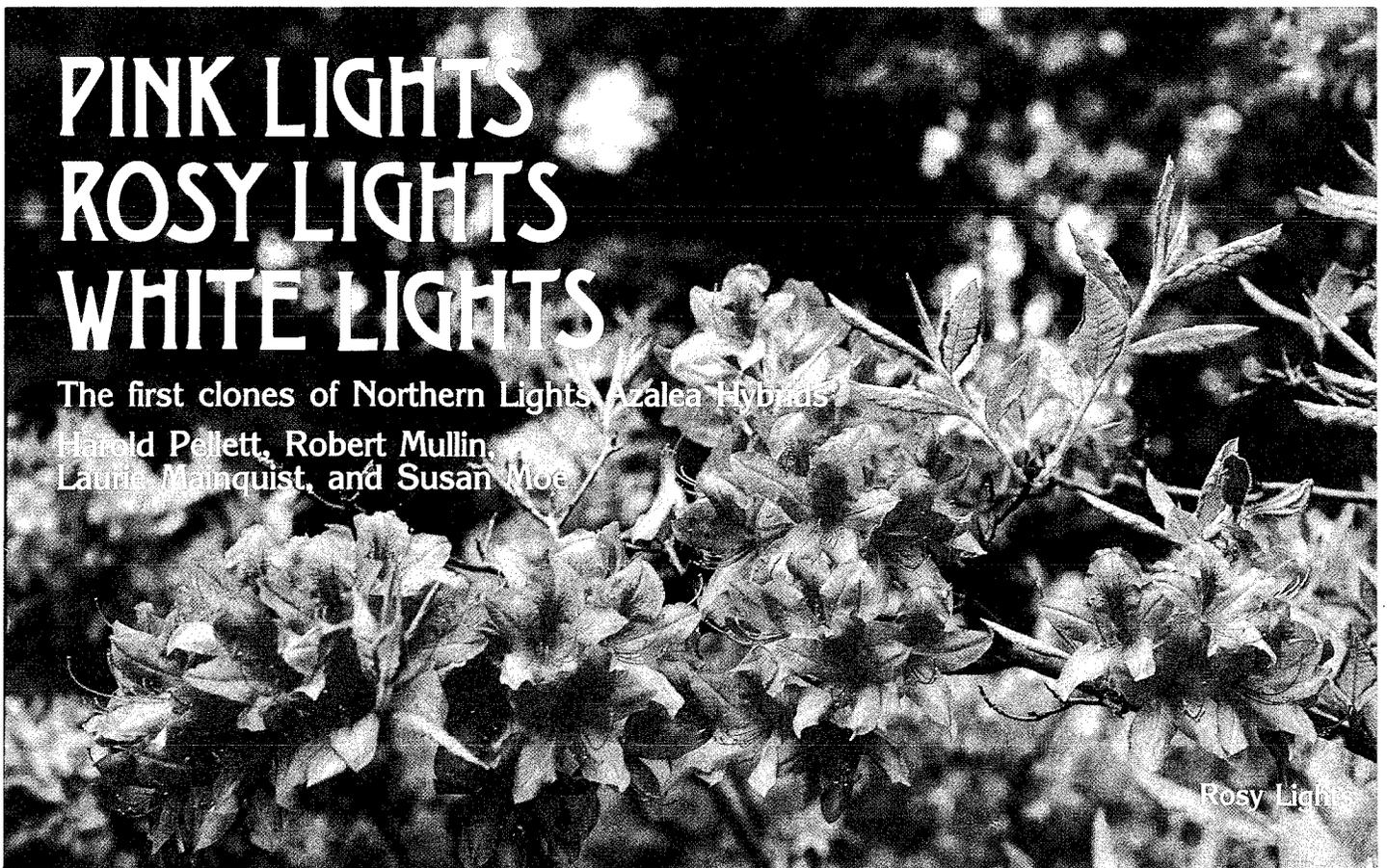


PINK LIGHTS ROSY LIGHTS WHITE LIGHTS

The first clones of Northern Lights Azalea Hybrids

Harold Pellett, Robert Mullin,
Laurie Mainquist, and Susan Moe



Rosy Lights



Minnesota
Report
1974 -- 1983

Pink Lights



White Lights

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Pink Lights and Rosy Lights azaleas were selected from hybrids obtained by crossing *Rhododendron x kosteranum* and *Rhododendron prinophyllum*. Availability of these two clones now provides an opportunity to select either a light pink (Pink Lights) or a darker, rosy pink (Rosy Lights) azalea with assurance of uniformity of flower color. Pink Lights and Rosy Lights azaleas mature at 6 to 7 feet in height and spread. They produce a spectacular display of fragrant flowers in late May or early June. Flower buds can withstand winter temperatures of -45°F without injury.

White Lights resulted from a cross between *R. prinophyllum* and a white flowered Exbury hybrid. Flower buds are pale delicate pink in the balloon stage. Upon initial opening the flowers have a faint pink tinge which fades at full bloom to give virtually a white appearance in the landscape. Flower buds are winter hardy to -35°F .

Pink Lights, Rosy Lights and White Lights are the first clonal introductions of the hardy Northern Lights hybrid azalea series developed at the University of Minnesota. Future introductions will provide cold-hardy deciduous azaleas with a wide choice of flower color.

Azaleas 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 the plants are fertilized once or twice annually with an acid fertilizer.

Nurseries will have a limited quantity of these plants available for sale in spring of 1984.

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