

*Pleasant Valley*  
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## Rhododendron Care Sheet

Rhododendrons are one of the most beautiful flowering bushes. However, they require special care to become established in the landscape.

They are very susceptible to winter injury if they are planted in an exposed location. Rhododendrons do best on the north or east side of a house, protected from the prevailing winter winds and where they get ½ day of shade.

Rhododendrons also require a very well drained soil; they will not tolerate “heavy” or wet soils. To improve a soil, mix in peat moss with the existing soil, at a rate of 1/3 peat moss to 2/3 existing soil.

Water the rhododendron once a week approximately for the first two (2) summers. Newly planted rhododendrons prefer Miracle-Gro fertilizer, **not Mir-Acid.**

The soil can be amended with garden sulfur to keep it acid. We carry garden sulfur in small bags.

Granular fertilizer is the easiest way to fertilize rhododendrons. Use ¼ cup for each 3' of height of 10-10-10 once a year in the spring. Sprinkle in a 4' - 5' circle on the soil at base of the shrub, without getting any on the shrub.