

HOW TO PLANT AN AZALEA OR A RHODODENDRON

1 REMOVE THE POT AND SOAK THE ROOTS IN WATER FOR A FEW MINUTES UNTIL THE ROOT SYSTEM IS COMPLETELY SATURATED.

2 DIG A HOLE THAT IS APPROXIMATELY AS DEEP AS THE LENGTH OF THE ROOT AREA AND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS WIDE AS THE DIAMETER OF THE ROOTS.

3 REMOVE ANY ROTTEN ROOTS AND TRY TO LOOSEN THE EXISTING ROOTS; IF THE ROOTS ARE VERY SOLID, MAKE A FEW CROSSWISE NOTCHES.

4 MIX THE SOIL FROM THE PLANTING HOLE WITH THE SAME QUANTITY OF PEAT OR COMPOST.

5 PLACE THE PLANT IN THE PLANTING HOLE, MAKING SURE THAT THE TOPS OF THE ROOTS ARE SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE SURROUNDING SOIL (THE HEAVIER THE SOIL, THE HIGHER THE ROOTS NEED TO BE).

6 FILL THE PLANTING HOLE WITH THE MIXTURE OF SOIL AND PEAT, PRESSING IT DOWN FIRMLY WITH YOUR HAND AND MAKING SURE THAT THERE IS A SMALL VERGE AROUND THE PLANT, WHICH WILL HELP WITH WATERING.

**7 GIVE THE PLANT SUFFICIENT WATER DURING THE FIRST FEW YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN VERY HOT WEATHER.
GOOD LUCK!**

If your soil is too heavy or is poorly drained, it is best to use a raised bed: First create a border in wood or stones, of around 40 cm in size. Fill this with oak or pine leaf compost mixed with a little peat, making sure that the pH level is between 4 and 5.

Then plant as described above.

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