Minnetonka Rhododendron

Rhododendron 'Minnetonka'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

Large, glossy evergreen leaves on an upright shrub; amazing clusters of lavender-pink flowers in late spring; prefers well-drained, cool, highly acidic and organic soil, use plenty of peat moss when planting



Minnetonka Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Minnetonka Rhododendron in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Minnetonka Rhododendron is blanketed in stunning clusters of lavender trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer. It has attractive green evergreen foliage. The oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Minnetonka Rhododendron is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Minnetonka Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Minnetonka Rhododendron will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.