Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Besse Howells Rhododendron

Rhododendron 'Besse Howells'



Besse Howells Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

This captivating, evergreen shrub is bathed in clusters of beautiful pink and white blooms with hot pink blotch; an excellent choice to mass in groupings as an elegant focal point of the garden; must have rich acidic soil

Ornamental Features

Besse Howells Rhododendron is bathed in stunning clusters of lightly-scented pink trumpet-shaped flowers with white throats and a hot pink blotch at the ends of the branches in late spring. It has green evergreen foliage. The narrow leaves remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Besse Howells Rhododendron is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.

Besse Howells Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Besse Howells Rhododendron in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Besse Howells Rhododendron will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 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.