

Rhododendron austrinum (Small) Rehd.



Common Name	Florida Flame Azalea, Orange Azalea
Botanical Name	<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>
Family	Ericaceae
Form	Shrub
Growth Habit	This deciduous shrub grows from 9'-12' with multiple stems and is loosely and irregularly branched.
Bark	Woody and reddish-brown, with younger stems often having a light pubescence.
Leaves	The alternate leaves are oval shaped and appear on short stalks. They are broadest at the middle, being 2"-4" long and 1"-2" across.
Flowers	Flowers are up to 1 ¼" long and appear in clusters during the spring. They are sweetly scented and brightly colored, from yellow to dark orange. Trumpet-shaped with 5 petals and 5 stamens which extend past the corolla, and a light pubescence on the corolla tube.
Fruit	A dry, cylindrically-shaped capsule that is slightly hairy and from ¾"-1" long.

Soil conditions	This species thrives in sandy, well-drained soil that is acidic.
Water	Regular moisture is important for the azalea.
Light Requirement	As it is a lower story shrub, the Florida Flame Azalea grows best in partial shade.
Native Growth Zone	8-9
Propagation	Seed, cuttings, suckers
Habitat	Found mostly in the northern portion of the state in moist woods, at stream margins, in floodplain forests, and in hardwood forests.
Remarks	This variety of azalea is one of the showiest of Florida's native azaleas. It is also one of the easiest to grow in a cultivated setting. It should never, however, be removed from the wild as it is listed as endangered by the Florida Department of Agriculture.
Works Consulted	Hortus Third, The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida, Florida Wildflowers in their Natural Communities, Florida Trees and Shrubs of Florida, Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, The Guide to Florida Wildflowers