



Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

Azaleas, Revised and Enlarged Edition by Fred C. Galle

519 pages, 108 colour plates, photos, Appendices - includes Azalea Hybridizers and Introducers, Selected References, Glossary, List of registered Azaleas. Index of Azaleas by names - Hybrid Groups, Species, Cultivars, Subject Index, and Index of Colour Illustrations.

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Fred Charles Galle, a native of Dayton, Ohio, was formerly the Director of Horticulture at Callaway Gardens, June 1953 to December 1979, and served as curator until retiring on August 31, 1983. He served many positions on a number of organizations, including The American Horticultural Society, The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, the International Dendrology Society, the International Shade Tree Conference, the Georgia Horticultural Society and Past President of the American Horticultural Society, and a long-time associate of the American Rhododendron Society.

In 1964, he was appointed as a member of the Advisory Council for the United States National Arboretum in

Washington where he served until 1972. In 1974 he was awarded the American Horticultural Society's Citation for outstanding contributions to Professional Horticulture. The Garden Club of Georgia presented a certificate of Merit for the years 1976-77 to Mr Galle in recognition of his outstanding contribution. In 1977 the National Council of State Garden Clubs awarded him their "Silver Metal" and in 1978 he received the "Porter Henegar Award for Horticultural Research".

Azaleas, Revised and Enlarged Edition, for those who are seriously into azaleas, is a real treat to read as the organization of the material is very well laid out into four main sections, followed by the appendices and several indices.

Fred Charles Galle's book on Azaleas, when it first appeared, was referred to as "the new standard book on azaleas". It is a complete book which serves well as a reference book on azaleas, includes descriptions of all of the Rhododendron species of Azaleas and over 6000 cultivars derived from them. The breeding work of the Japanese, English, Dutch, Belgian, Australian and many other hybridizers as well as North American growers are well documented.

Section 1 covers descriptions of Azaleas in the landscape and as companion plants in the garden. Section 11 gives attention to Taxonomy, Nomenclature Azalea Series Key. Section 111 takes the reader into very detailed descriptions of hybridizing of azaleas, introducing new cultivars, a good comprehensive coverage of deciduous azaleas and also lengthy description of evergreen azaleas. Section IV covers in detail the planting and care of azaleas, transplanting of azaleas, special care needed for hanging baskets, bonsai azaleas, problems with diseases, pests, mites, animals.

The Appendices and accompanying Index give so much information, which makes this book so useful to the reader and material so quickly at one's finger tips.