



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article August 21, 2017

Free Presentation on Azaleas Offered

by Lydia Holley

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) will host former Agri-Life Extension Agent Keith Hanson on Thursday, August 31, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 507 N Broad Street, Chandler, TX. Hanson will speak on growing azaleas. This presentation is free to the public.



Hanson worked as a Texas Agri-Life Extension agent for 29 years. He received his Bachelors and Master's degrees in Horticulture at Texas A&M University. He continued his study in Plant Physiology at the University of California at Davis. HCMGA is very please to have Hanson educating the public about one of East Texas' most popular and beloved landscape shrubs.

Azaleas are available in a variety of bloom colors as well as mature sizes. These beautiful plants are generally evergreen, so they look just as attractive in January as they do in August. They also bloom in spring, with some cultivars repeat blooming in autumn. Considered low maintenance plantings, azaleas require only occasional light pruning.

Although azaleas are popular, it is important to note that they will not thrive just anywhere. They prefer dappled or part shade and acidic soil. Because azaleas have shallow roots, they can not withstand drought, and prefer to be in moist, but well drained soil.

Hanson will provide information on the planting, care, fertilization and optimal pruning schedule for azaleas. He will give information on the pests and possible diseases you may encounter when growing azaleas.

He will also give information about the different types of azaleas, including native azaleas, which are becoming quite popular. Unlike their Asian cousins, azaleas native to the United States are deciduous and fragrant. Once hard to find, their availability has grown over the past several years.

East Texas would not be the same if spring did not include copious displays of blooming azaleas. Come learn how you can add azaleas to your own landscape. This presentation is a part of HCMGA's Summer Series, a series of presentations offered free to the public on various horticultural topics.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.