

## Letter to the Editor

I am sending you the following contribution for a future issue of **THE AZALEAN**. I trust you will find my observations to be of use to the membership.

Fred Galle's article in the September 1992 issue of **THE AZALEAN** makes several references to deer problems. I have found a cheap, effective, and safe means of keeping white-tailed deer from munching on my vegetables and young hollies (the deer haven't tried my azaleas—yet!). We have plenty of deer too. I use one raw egg mixed up in a gallon of water and sprayed on the foliage. I use a kitchen electric mixer to blend two jumbo size raw eggs in a little water before putting the egg-water mix in my two-gallon pump sprayer. Perhaps smaller-sized eggs and/or fewer would work as well. I don't know. We have jumbo eggs so I use them.

The deer tracks have led right up to my snap beans and purple hull beans, but not a nibble was taken. I apply the egg-water spray after each rain but weekly if it doesn't rain. Many are surprised to hear that it works. I'm sure many of **THE AZALEAN** readers will be too. All I can say to them is "Try it. You'll like it!"

I can't reference the method, but I remember reading somewhere years ago, that a woman forester for the US Forest Service discovered it and used eggs in the water when setting out seedling trees in reforestation. The nursery seedlings were too succulent for the deer to pass up. The egg solution kept the deer at bay until the seedlings had hardened off and the deer were no longer tempted.

Robert J. Miravalle

*On the Cover:* *R. occidentale* Idyllwild 1323

*Photographer:* Mike McCullough

## Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of the series *Azalea* (subgenus *Anthodendron*) of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (Ericaceae).

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