cultivars that have a large cold requirement to break dormancy. This probably would not occur in places with more consistently cold winters.

Late-flowering cultivars were conspicuously low in flowering effectiveness. The 24 cultivars with mean peak flowering date in May averaged less than 15% flower coverage at their peak, whereas the 72 cultivars that peaked in March averaged 58%. This lack of effectiveness is due partly to the gradual flowering of many late cultivars at this location and partly to the lack of longevity of individual flowers at the high temperatures that can be expected in May.

Southern Indian hybrids usually flower here without fail, but 1992 was a disaster for 'Pride of Mobile', 'George L. Taber', 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing', and 'Formosa' and its sports. Most of the flower buds on these plants had presumably been killed by a 26°F air temperature on November 5, 1991. Such occurrences make predicting azalea flowering time and quality about as much a gamble as predicting the weather itself.

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