

however, are "Tyukyu", i.e., plants of some five feet in height, hairy stems, etc.—an altogether different class of plants.

In the general class of Kurume, both Japanese and American, the only double seems to be 'Haku Botan', which has not been introduced(?) and seems rather ten-petaled and upright. Among American hybrids in this class there seem to be no true doubles. The closest hose-in-hose in season and habit is the Beltsville 'White Squall', the lowest of the non-dwarfs. (Why this cultivar is not "in the trade" mystifies.) The earlier white Linwoods are all hose-in-hose and among the most Kurume-like of those plants.

Finally, seven plants of 'Providence' exist under the label 'Alpha-1'. Those labels should be changed, as well as any propagations from them.

L. Malcolm Clark has been active in the Azalea Society since its beginning. Mal is a past chapter president and national president, as well as our current national President. He retired from a career as teacher and administrator in the Caldwell, New Jersey public school system in 1986 and moved to his home town, where he works as the third-generation proprietor of Chandler Gardens Nursery, propagating over 3,000 different azalea cultivars and working on his own hybridizing program. □

Designing with Azaleas

Stephen S. Brainerd

Dallas, Texas

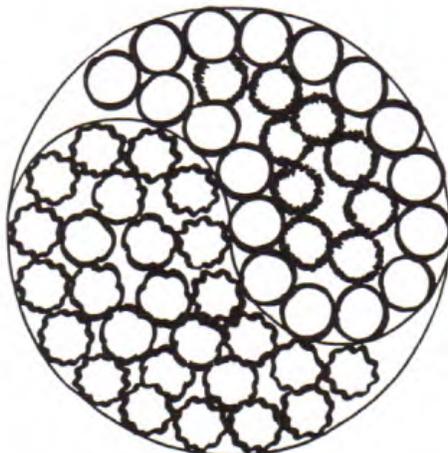
Here is a cookbook approach to designing with azaleas. Read further and you will get practical ideas on form, color selection and color sequencing.

Form is the first quality to consider when designing a planting plan. Don't be intimidated by the thought of drawing. To lay out a plan, all that is needed is a pencil, paper, compass and a ruler. The examples discussed below illustrate how to create plans for these situations. The technique for drawing the layouts is detailed first.

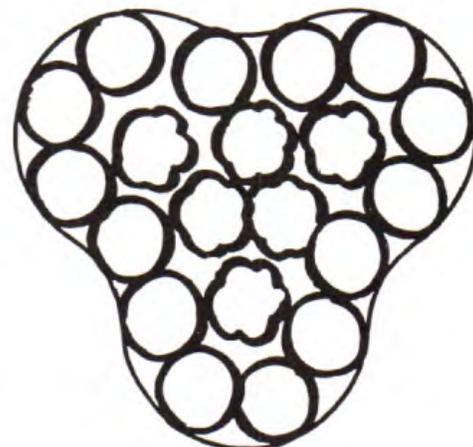
In the examples, circles represent two-foot diameter plants. Example number 1 was constructed starting with a straight line drawn horizontally across a piece of 8-1/2" x 11" paper. The compass point was placed on the center of the line and a circle 8" in diameter (4" in radius) was drawn around the point. Next the compass point was placed on the middle point of the line between the center and the circle. A semi-circle was drawn 2" in radius above the line followed in like fashion by a semi-circle below the line. Plant circles 1" in diameter were then drawn in to fill the spaces. Example 2 was drawn using three radiating straight lines from a central point. Three circles at equal distance from the central point on the lines were then drawn onto the paper. Arcs the same radius of the circles then were drawn to connect the circles. Example 3 began with a straight line. A light semi-circular line was drawn above the straight line. The compass was moved and a light semi-circular line was drawn below the straight line intersecting the first semi-circle. Circular plants were then drawn along the S shape from the inside and outside. These planting designs assume azaleas planted about two-foot on center.

Example 1 would be appropriately viewed from an elevated position. A suggested planting for very early flower color in Dallas (February to early March) would be a ground cover of creeping phlox, light blue in one half and pink in the other half. Over the light blue phlox would be azaleas 'Geisha Pink' on the outside and azalea 'Rose Greeley' in the center. 'Rose Greeley' has the additional benefit of being fragrant. Over the pink phlox would be azalea 'Festive' in the center with azalea 'Christmas Cheer' on the outside. The light blue, pink and white combinations here are show stoppers!

Example 2 could be a design for early blooming (March to early April in Dallas). Louisiana purple phlox would be the ground cover. Azalea 'Hinode Giri' would



EXAMPLE 1 (Not to scale)



EXAMPLE 2 (Not to scale)

be on the outside with azalea 'Refrain' on the inside. This is a particularly striking planting for most of the year. The Louisiana purple phlox draws the purple out of the 'Hinode Giri'. 'Refrain' sports are very close in color to the 'Hinode Giri' but provide the white flowers as well. Give this planting sun and you will have a stunning winter leaf combination of green phlox, bronze 'Hinode Giri' and yellow-green 'Refrain'. 'Refrain' tends to grow upright whereas 'Hinode Giri' is relatively rounded and layered in growth habit.

Example 3 could also be a design for early blooming (March to early April in Dallas). Strawberry begonia would be the ground cover. Plant azalea 'Sherwood Red' with azalea 'Trouper' behind. The yellow-green leaves of the strawberry begonia are stunning with the red orange flowers of 'Trouper' and 'Sherwood Red'. It is difficult for me to distinguish between 'Trouper' and 'Sherwood Red', but 'Trouper' has a much more upright growth habit while 'Sherwood Red' is relatively rounded and layered. These azaleas'

leaves also take on a deep bronze color if given sun in the winter.

Don't forget the fall for azalea flower color. I particularly like azalea 'Opal' planted with *R. yedoense* 'Poukhanense' [*R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense* ed.]. 'Opal' blooms heaviest for me in Dallas in the fall. Planted in front of 'Poukhanense', 'Opal' provides a foliage screen for the semi-evergreen Poukhanense which puts on a light flower bloom. This is a balanced combination in a lavender color.

Consider matching flower color with leaf color as suggested earlier with strawberry begonia and azalea 'Sherwood Red'. Another combination is 'Poukhanense' which flowers in Dallas in winter months with the yellow-green leaves of many of the white flowered azalea varieties. Azaleas 'Vittata Fortunei Purple' and 'Sherbrook' are two other dependable winter bloomers having lavender flowers that look good with the yellow-green leaves of white flowered azaleas.



EXAMPLE 3 (Not to scale)

I enjoy the azalea winter leaf color as much as the dramatic spring flower show because it lasts so much longer. Design plantings to display red flowered azaleas 'Hinode Giri', 'Stewartstonian', 'Fashion', 'Girard's Hot Shot', 'Girard's Rose', 'Tilly', and 'Trouper' with white/pink flowered azaleas 'Glacier', 'Delaware Valley White', 'Pink Pearl', and 'Snow' to provide pleasing color throughout the fall and winter.

There is no color without light. Subtle changes of intensity of light within the planting are the stuff of exquisite azalea design. I am particularly fond of a planting which I designed and placed under live oak trees. The design is similar to Example 3 except that azalea 'Hinode Giri' was placed at both ends and azalea 'Refrain' placed in the center. The planting is positioned so that the 'Hinode Giri' is in shade and the 'Refrain' in sun. During most of the year it appears that there is a spotlight on the planting. The relatively light colored leaf of the 'Refrain' is enhanced by sunlight, the 'Hinode Giri' fading to the outside.

My hope is that you will be inspired to get a pencil, paper, compass and ruler out of the drawer and into your hands.

Enjoy your azaleas!

Stephen S. Brainerd graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.A. in Chemistry. He is a 20-year veteran of U.S. Naval Fighter Aviation. He has worked with an extensive azalea collection in Dallas as a landscaping contractor and currently works for the City of Highland Park. An avid azalea gardener, Steve has served as president for the Dallas Chapter and is currently Vice President of the Society. □