

All of the native azalea seed have a small wing, except for the species *Rhododendron arborescens*, which is like a pellet. Some species have large seed, while those of *R. vaseyi*, *R. prunifolium*, and *R. cumberlandense* are smaller. The seed of mountain laurel are like dust and must be handled as such. One good sneeze and the seeds disperse.

The seedpods and seed of evergreen azaleas are smaller than their deciduous relatives. Usually, the pods are about 5/16" long by 1/4" wide, slightly conical in shape. The seed are small, but some will have a small wing, as in the deciduous forms.

### Storage

To store the seed you have now cleaned, coin envelopes work very well, and all the necessary information may be written on them. They may be purchased from almost any office supply store, or use the resources listed at the end of this article. To protect the seed further, I first put them in 2" x 3-1/4" Glassine envelopes that Westvaco manufactures. I get them through an online company I give below in the Materials section.

Well, now you have collected loads of seedpods, cleaned the seed and have them tucked away in coin envelopes, so what do we do next? If you plan to sow the seed quickly, no

further action is needed. However, if you wish to store the seed for next year or later winter sowing, they need to be put into the refrigerator. I prefer to use the Zip-Loc® type plastic bags where they may be sealed tightly and excess air removed to prevent moisture problems.

Whatever size plastic bags I may choose, I put a number of the seed filled coin envelopes inside along with a **moisture trap**. This trap is simple to make out of one sheet of paper towel and 1/2 teaspoon of powdered milk: I put the powdered milk in the center of the towel and begin folding repeatedly until I have a small pouch that I tape closed. I do not recommend using silica gel, for it will dry the seed out too much and kill the germ. It does work well as a desiccant for drying pollen, but that is another article.

After years of propagating azaleas from seed, I found refrigerating the seed for a short time (at least 72 hours) seems to speed up germination by up to a week. If the above instructions are followed, you may expect to store viable seed for up to six years. My usual germinating rate is over 95% in 9 to 12 days with a soil temperature of 70°F and increased photoperiod (16 hours in 24) using electric lights.

Now that you have some basic information on collecting, cleaning, and

storing azalea seed, this fall take some friends on a trip to join in on the fun. Of course, I have not told you how to sow the seed, so that will be in the next article, Part 2B, to be published in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Azalean*.

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### Reference

Galle, Fred C. 1987. *Azaleas*. Portland: Timber Press. Chapter 11, page 333.

### Materials

For coin envelopes white or manila on-line: <http://store.yahoo.com/actionenvelopes/index.html>

Or mail to:

Action Envelope Co.  
245 Adams Boulevard  
Farmingdale, NY 11735  
Telephone: 1-800-653-1705

For Glassine envelopes on-line: <http://www.admiralenvelope.com/>

Or mail to:

Admiral Envelope Mfg. Co., Inc.  
214 Sullivan St.  
New York, NY 10012  
Telephone: 1-888-810-6944

## A Note on Color Names in Galle's Azaleas

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In his magnum opus titled *Azaleas*, Fred Galle made an important contribution to the description of azalea colors by using Inter-Society Color Council-National Bureau of Standards (ISCC-NBS) color names where possible. The reader should, however, be aware of cer-

**Deep Pink 3** - spinel pink, not spinel rose  
**Vivid Red 11** - carmine rose, not carmine red  
**Strong Red 12** - claret rose, not claret red  
**Moderate Yellowish Pink 29** - flesh pink, not flesh color; - vinaceous buff, not vinaceous  
**Deep Yellowish Pink 27** - delete salmon  
**Moderate Reddish Orange 37** - burnt orange, not burnt red  
**1st ed.: Strong Reddish Orange 35**, not  
**Strong Red 35** - bright coral rose, not coral rose; - bright coral red, not coral red  
**Strong Orange 50** - pumpkin, not pumpkin orange

**Pale Orange Yellow 73** - pale salmon color, not pale salmon; - pale pinkish buff or pale pinkish cinnamon, not pale pinkish salmon  
**Light Purple 222** - pale lavender-violet, not pale lavender rose  
**1st ed.: Moderate Purple 223**, not  
**Moderate Pink 223**  
**Strong Purple 218** - delete royal purple  
**Deep Purple 219** - delete spectrum violet; add royal purple  
**Strong Reddish Purple 237** - dull dark purple, not dull dark red

tain errors in the table relating selected ISCC-NBS color names and common color names (see *Azaleas*: pp. 41-42 in the original 1985 edition; pp. 43-44 in the 1987 revised edition). These errors are listed below (where not specified, the corrections apply in both editions).

**Pale Purplish Pink 252** - pale vinaceous-lilac, not pale vinaceous  
**1st ed.: Strong Purplish Red 255**, not  
**Strong Purplish Pink 255**  
**1st ed.: Vivid Purplish Red 254**, not  
**Vivid Purplish Pink 254**

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