



Chionoides Rhododendron

Rhododendron catawbiense 'Chionoides'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Spacing: 6 feet

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Catawba Rhododendron

Description:

Attractive large white blooms with yellow blotches adorn this stately variety in mid spring; an accent or border shrub that will definitely stand out; absolutely must have well-drained, highly acidic and organic soil

Ornamental Features

Chionoides Rhododendron is covered in stunning clusters of lightly-scented white trumpet-shaped flowers with a gold blotch at the ends of the branches in mid spring. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy narrow leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Chionoides Rhododendron is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Chionoides Rhododendron is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Chionoides Rhododendron flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Chionoides Rhododendron will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 6 feet apart. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.