

- [22] Spring/Summer 2007 Availability, Glen Saint Mary Nurseries Co, obtained from the nursery.
- [23] H. Harold Hume, "Citrus Fruits and Their Culture," The H. & W. B. Drew Company, Jacksonville, Florida, 1904. "Respectfully dedicated to my friend George Lindley Taber whose inspiration has made this volume possible."
- [24] Gene Barber, "Earn Harris and the Discovery of the Taber Azalea," the Baker County Press, April 8, 1976, p2.
- [25] Gerbing Camellia Nursery catalog, Fernandina, Florida, 1946, examined at the Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland.

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Dallas Arboretum Introduces Collection of Encore® Azaleas

Garden-lovers can now view the entire Encore® Azalea collection at the Dallas Arboretum.

The Dallas Arboretum is known as one of the top five display gardens in the United States, and two decades ago, when the garden was created, its first plant residents were azaleas. The first major planting consisted of 2,500 traditional azaleas as part of the Margaret Elisabeth Jonsson Color Garden. This collection also included the first public planting of the Huang collection of azaleas outside of China, and a planting of the National Arboretum introductions.

The results were breathtaking and drew notice; more than 385,000 visitors see the gardens each year, and azaleas and tulips are the big spring stars.

Not everything was rosy, though. Last year, Turner Worthy, director of Horticulture Operations, inventoried the entire azalea collection and found the azaleas were showing signs of age and wear.

"Our alkaline soils, heavy black clay, and severe heat make us a premiere testing site for plant toughness," Worthy says. "I believe azaleas outside of their perfect environment have a life expectancy, and ours have passed it!"

To remedy the problem and to ensure the future glory of the azalea collection, the Dallas Arboretum Horticulture Department committed to a five-year improvement program.

In the fall of 2006, Worthy wrote and received a \$20,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticulture Trust to "jump start" the rejuvenation project. This money was in addition to the \$32,000 set aside by the Dallas Arboretum. These funds were used to purchase soil amendments and new plants, and to refurbish the irrigation system. As part of the remedy, the Arboretum began replacing fading azaleas with Encore® Azaleas.

"We have tested the Encore® Azaleas, and I love them!" Worthy says. "They have proven to be heat and cold tolerant, exceptional (multi-season) bloomers, and less likely to have nutritional problems. I would like to have the Encore® (Azaleas), the newest and best azalea, as the backbone of our upgraded display."

For more information about the Dallas Arboretum contact:

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