

Fireflare Orange[®] Mollis Azalea

Rhododendron xkosteranum 'FireDak' (Family: *Ericaceae*)

Description: Single plant selection originating from a hybrid Mollis azalea seedling population. This selection was planted and grown in Fargo, ND in the early 1970's. It has performed admirably for over 40 years of evaluation. This NDSU deciduous hybrid azalea cultivar has proven to be pH adaptable and winterhardy.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 3b to 8

Mature Size: Height: 4', Spread: 5'

Form (Shape): Dense, compact semi-dwarf shrub

Growth Rate: Moderate

Foliage: Deciduous

Summer: Medium green

Autumn: Yellow-orange to reddish-purple

Texture: Medium

Flower: Flowers are a very showy brilliant fire-orange. Flower clusters average 3 – 7 florets per bud with each flower being on average 2.5 inches in width.

Fruit: Not ornamentally significant (dehiscent capsule).

Special Features: Winter hardy soil pH tolerant selection

Light Preferences: Full sun to part shade (up to 50%).

Soil Preferences: Prefers moist well-drained soil.

Propagation: Stem cuttings and Tissue Culture

Ornamental Attributes: Fireflare Orange[®] Mollis azalea blooms are truly an eye-stopper with the brilliant fire-orange color.

Landscape Attributes: This selection is pH tolerant with no exhibition of chlorosis symptoms in alkaline pH soils.

Comments: This is a great addition to the landscape of a hardy soil tolerant flowering azalea

Availability: Mountain Shadow Nursery (WA) (TC microcuttings).

