

# **Payless Plants - Te Awamutu**

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641 Ohaupo Road, State Highway 3, Te Awamutu. | Phone 07 870 3222

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### **Rhododendron Princess Alice**

Item Name

Rhododendron Princess Alice

Item #

Rho107

Distributor

**Payless Plants** 

Manufacturer

**Payless Plants** 

Unit of Supply

2.5 lit. HP

**Annual Production** 

50

Price

\$8.00



#### **Rhododendron Princess Alice**

#### **Short Description**

Compact shrub with deep green glossy leaves. Flowers white. Highly scented. Possibly a sport of R. fragrantissima. 1.5m

### **More Information**

Parentage: R. ciliatum x R. edgeworthii

Breeder: Veitch- First Class Certificate (FCC) 1865

R. Princess Alice is commonly thought to be a sport of R. fragrantissima which may or may not be true. The flowers look identical, the flower fragrance is much the same, the leaves also look the same. As a plant however R. fragrantissima has on open form whereas R. Princess Alice has a much tighter form. If a choice is made between the

## **Rhododendron Princess Alice**

two clones then R. Princess Alice is the preferred option. The parentage of R. fragrantissima is also thought to be different listed as R. formosum x R. edgeworthii which also gained an FCC in 1868. It is also possible the two clones are a grex - i.e. originate from 2 seed from the same seed pod.

#### Cultivation

The number one requirement to grow good Rhododendrons is quality top soil. Avoid clay and sand like soils.

When planting dig a hole wider than seems necessary so the soil will be soft and friable around the root ball. The roots of Rhododendrons are like fine filaments and will struggle in solid hard packed ground. For this reason, Rhododendrons planted in a lawn area may struggle especially in a dry season. After planting water in well to settle in and to remove air pockets. It is a good idea to cover the soil surface around the plant with humis to retain moisture - though do not use lawn clippings.

After planting and one good watering it should not be necessary to do any more watering, except in drought like conditions. Do not water every day, and even worse, several times per day.

Rhododendrons can be susceptible to mites and a few other pests. For best results spray with an insecticide in spring to keep new growth clean and vibrant. An alternative to insecticide is to use summer oil, or even a bit of dish wash liquid well diluted in water. Apply using a sprayer, or even a watering can with a rosette.

After flowering is finished remove dead flower heads to tidy up the plant. While old flower heads will fall off by themselves over time, removing dead heads will improve the appearance.

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