

## Guide to the Collections

The Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden contains 45 beds linked by 1.27 miles of walking trails. The total plantings total over 8500 taxa. The largest plant collections are azaleas, camellias, and Japanese maples. There are four major loops that highlight special features for visitors:

### Color Display Beds

Beds 1-17, 34-39, 41-45, 46

### Native Azalea Trail

Beds 25-28

### Azalea Cultivar Evaluations

Beds 29-33

### Camellia Loop

Beds 11, 18-24, 40

Numbered beds are shown on the map in the brochure. Bed signs in the garden describe the featured plants, theme, or design element used in each bed. All beds have color displays at different times of the year.

### Azalea Collections

See over 54 evergreen hybrid groups in the **Color Display Beds**, and 61 fragrant deciduous species or hybrids in the **Native Azalea Trail**.

The evergreen Girard, Glenn Dale, Kurume, Back Acres, Robin Hill and Southern Indian hybrids fill most of the color beds (Beds 1-24; 34-39). The Chinese Huang and Gartrell's numbered hybrids are found in Beds 31-32. Most May-blooming **Satsuki** are found in Beds 4, 17, 32-33. Beds 29-33 trial small evaluation sets of cutting-edge hybrids.

### Camellia Collection

Visit the **Camellia Forest Loop** to see over 200 cultivars, from the fall-blooming *Camellia sasanqua* to the winter-blooming *C. japonica*, as well as rare species from Southeast Asia.

### Japanese Maples

Over 230 specimens, ranging in height from diminutive dwarf shrubs to 30-foot trees, **Japanese maples**, *Acer palmatum*, and the **Full-Moon maple**, *A. japonicum*, add spring and fall foliage color and interest in every bed in the garden.

## Special Collections

Many other unique ornamental woody species add diversity to this garden.

- 30 cultivars of the **Japanese Plum Yew**, *Cephalotaxus*, the only evergreen yew we can grow reliably in climate—see Bed 23

- The **Chinese Witch-Hazel**, *Loropetalum*, makes a colorful and hardy purple and white evaluation hedge in Bed 5.
- Beds 24 and 35 display over 40 specimens of **Boxwood**, *Buxus sempervirens*.
- Over 200 Hydrangea cultivars edge Bed 1, from the typical garden shrubs **Garden Hydrangea**, *H. macrophylla*, and **Lacecap**, *H. paniculata* and **Hydrangea serrata**, to the native **Oak-Leaf Hydrangea**, *H. quercifolia*, and some very exotic specimens from Southeast Asia and Japan. These bloom May through July.
- Our truly unique trees range from *Styrax japonica* '**Rubrum Pendulum**', a pink Japanese Snowbell, *Cotinus obovatus*, the **American Smoke Tree**, *Cornus pringlei*, and China's **Smiling Lily Tree**, *Michelia maudiae*, and many other magnolia relatives planted throughout the garden.
- Unusual shrubs include **Syringa oblata hupehensis**, an evergreen **Lilac** relative, and silvery blue-green **Dusty Zenobia**, *Z. pulverulenta*.
- The yellow *Magnolia* '**Elizabeth**', other deciduous magnolias, and the Chinese Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus retusus*, give light-flowered contrast throughout the garden.

See the [Living Plant Collection Index](#) for a detailed listing of all the specimens planted in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. For more information, please contact: Barbara Stump ([bstump@sfasu.edu](mailto:bstump@sfasu.edu)).