

# Satsuki Azalea: Bonsai Care Calendar



	<b>Fertilizer</b>	<b>Repotting</b>	<b>Wiring</b>	<b>Trimming/Pruning</b>	<b>Care</b>
<b>January</b>	Long-term slow release Continue fertilizing Extra potash Seasol	After flowering	After flowering or can all year round	Remove seed pods Thin new shoots Shape/design tree	Check wire Cuttings Anti fungal treatment - Mancozeb for petal blight When Flowers start to 'wither' remove all the flowers including the seed pods
<b>February</b>	Extra potash Slow down fertilizer Seasol	Now	Wire now		Cuttings Remove seed pods Remove unwanted shoots New buds are being formed now
<b>March</b>	Fertilize Seasol		Wire now	Trim to keep shape only Growth is decreasing now	Spray for Lace bug etc – Confidor New buds are being formed now
<b>April</b>	Fertilize Seasol	No	Yes	Trim to keep shape only	Seed collecting NOW
<b>May</b>	Slow down fertilizing Seasol	No	Yes	Trim to keep shape only	Beware fungal diseases Mancozeb (anti-fungal) Fongarid for root rot – 6 to 10 weeks protection (prevention as well)
<b>June</b>	No Fertilizer Or can use Low/no nitrogen fertilizer e.g. tomato fertilizer Seasol	No	Can remove wire – keep watch – do not let it dig in		Beware fungal diseases (Mancozeb?) Fongarid for root rot – 6 to 10 weeks protection (prevention as well)
<b>July</b>	No Fertilizer Or can use Low/no nitrogen fertilizer e.g. tomato fertilizer Seasol	No			Hardwood cuttings Remove excess moss Fongarid for root rot – 6 to 10 weeks protection (prevention as well)

<b>August</b>	Increase/Start fertilizing Seasol	Repot now but flower buds would have to be removed.	Wire now	Remove flower buds if growing tree on. Thread grafts before growth. Pinch unwanted shoots Remove shoots that take away light from the Flower buds	Fungal spray Fongarid for root rot – 6 to 10 weeks protection (prevention as well) Remove excess buds Thread grafts before growth
<b>September</b>	Trace elements. Feed now fortnightly. Depends on the strength of fertilizer. Seasol	Repot now but flower buds would have to be removed.	Care of buds	Trim unwanted foliage Grafts before buds open. Remove shoots that take away light from the Flower buds	Cuttings now Root rot alert Fongarid for root rot – 6 to 10 weeks protection (prevention as well)
<b>October</b>	Chalated Iron Feed now & stop when buds are ready to open Seasol	Best repot now	Late spring some varieties 'snap' now	Thin out flower buds Thread grafts before buds open. Remove shoots that take away light from the Flower buds	Cuttings now Thin flower buds Bayleton to control Petal Blight
<b>November</b>	No fertilizer - or can use Seasol Do not fertilize during blooming time	No Or if flowered can repot	No	Prune shoots that cover buds or remove light from buds	Shade or bring inside while flowering Cuttings now
<b>December</b>	No fertilizer - or can use Seasol Do not fertilize during blooming time	Repot after flowering		Prune after flowering Remove dead flowers & seed pods	Cuttings Remove flowers Malathon spray

Length of day triggers flowering

Use Blood & Bone once per season

Remove shoots from base of plant

Stop fertilizing about a month before flowering

Add Sulphur to increase PH

Pruning 3 times per year: Early spring as new shoots appear, after flowering, autumn – But watch for die back if cut off where there are no leaves

Satsuki have 2 lots of seasonal leaves – 1. Autumn and 2. Spring

Ted Poynton: fertilize all season- little but regularly

remove up or down shoots

Check PH 4.5 – 5.5

OR add vinegar & water 1 teaspoon of vinegar to 3.75 litres of water

## Fertilizers

Prostragen – tomato food is low nitrogen  
 Charlie Carp  
 Thrive  
 Specific Azalea & Camellia fertilizer

## Satsuki Soil Mixes

**ALWAYS REMEMBER TO CHECK THE PH**

*Remember – drainage pebbles in the bottom of your pots & wire your plants in to the container*

<b>Arthur Robinson W.A.</b>	<b>Suggested by some Vic. Bonsai enthusiasts</b>	<b>Others</b>
Kanuma Handful of charcoal per bucket of mix; Dried and finely shredded sphagnum moss 10% for W.A. Warmer climate 5% for Japan 5%- 10% depending on your climate (Vic) Small amount of Charcoal	$\frac{1}{3}$ Maidenwell, 5 – 7 ml (Diatomite) $\frac{1}{3}$ Pine Bark Nuggets (orchid bark nuggets – Medium) $\frac{1}{3}$ Peat moss	$\frac{1}{2}$ Maidenwell, 5 – 7 ml (Diatomite) $\frac{1}{2}$ Pine Bark Nuggets (orchid bark nuggets – Medium) & 5% - 10% Dried and finely shredded sphagnum moss Small amount of Charcoal  Finally .... you can use ... Standard Bonsai soil – & check PH

## Yates Mancozeb Plus Garden Fungicide and Miticide – Petal Blight

Yates Mancozeb Plus Garden Fungicide & Miticide is a multi-purpose, dual-active formulation combining the benefits of Mancozeb and wettable sulfur. Both actives have a contact fungicidal action, helping to control and prevent the entry and spread of a range of common fungal diseases.

The wettable sulfur component has the added benefit of providing control of a range of mite species. This formulation is suitable for use on a range of vegetables, fruit, ornamentals and lawns.

### Features

- Controls petal blight, powdery mildew, rust, dollar spot in lawns and many more\*
- Makes 30L of spray
- 2 in 1 fungicide and Miticide

### Ingredients

ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS: 549 g/kg SULFUR (S) present as wettable sulfur, 235g/ kg MANCOZEB

### How to use

HOW TO APPLY: Spray when risk of disease or mites is high and **repeat spray every 10 days**. It is important to thoroughly cover all plant surfaces including the undersides of leaves. For stone fruit, apply at full blossom, petal fall and then at 3 week intervals till 2 weeks before harvest. For lawns, apply as a spray or using a watering can with sprinkle bar attachment.

DO NOT apply if rain is expected within 24 hours, if temperature exceeds 27°C or if plants are suffering from moisture stress.

CROP	DISEASE	RATE
ORNAMENTALS		
Azaleas, camellias	Petal blight	Mix 5g (1 level cap) to 1 litre of water OR 50g (10 level caps) to 10 litres of water. Agitate regularly during spraying to avoid settling.

## Azalea lace bug and azalea petal blight - Confidor



(Photo: Courtesy of John Colwill)

By Peter R Davis, Senior Entomologist, and Peter Wood, Plant Pathologist

If azalea foliage or flowers are being spoiled by lace bug or petal blight, preventative action – taken at the right time of year – can ease the problem.

### **Azalea lace bug**

#### ***Identification and symptoms of attack***

Azalea lace bug (*Stephanitis pyrioides*) is an introduced insect. Its common name comes from the raised network of veins on its clear, hardened forewings.

Adults are 4–6 mm long, and mottled black and tan. Nymphs (juveniles) are similarly coloured, but smaller and spiny in appearance, and they undergo a number of moults before they reach maturity. Lace bugs congregate on the undersides of azalea and rhododendron leaves. There they suck out the sap, robbing the plant of nutrients and causing the leaves to turn speckled grey-brown or silvery. The nymphs excrete honeydew, a sugary liquid on which sooty mould develops. If this coating becomes dense it decreases photosynthesis, further reducing the plant's health.

The damage is similar to that caused by thrips. To find out whether lace bugs are the cause, beat the affected foliage over a white cloth where any insects that fall can be seen easily. Cast skins shed by the nymphs are another clue to lace bugs' presence.

#### ***Management and control***

To avoid over-use of chemicals, try to exercise tolerance whenever possible. A little damaged foliage can be pruned, and minor occurrences of lace bug do not harm the plant seriously. Also bear in mind that the general condition of the plant may be the factor that determines the scale of attack. An azalea growing in a hot sunny location, where it suffers water stress, is more vulnerable. In the event of heavy infestations, spraying azaleas with a systemic insecticide – which the bugs ingest when they suck the sap – is effective but timing is crucial.

Lace bugs do not travel far or fast and it takes a long while for them to reach harmful numbers. So, provided the spray is timed correctly, a single treatment should be enough to kill a localised infestation and prevent a recurrence for one or maybe even two years. Lace bugs go through several generations during summer, so spraying the azaleas then is futile because eggs are constantly hatching. However, eggs laid in autumn lie dormant over winter and hatch in spring. The new season's nymphs do not emerge all at one moment, so spraying too early will kill only the first of them. But one application of systemic insecticide in late to mid spring will kill the later emerging nymphs as well as the earlier ones before they reach adulthood. Nursery and garden centre staff can recommend the

most suitable systemic insecticide.

### **Azalea petal blight**

#### ***Symptoms of infection***

Petal blight in azalea species and cultivars is caused by *Ovulinia azaleae*, a fungal disease. The first signs are small spots that look water-soaked. These enlarge rapidly and merge. Within two or three days, whole flowers become limp and slimy, and then turn light brown. The rotted flowers do not drop readily and, when they do, tend to adhere to the foliage where they can remain stuck for many weeks.

#### ***Life cycle of the fungus***

*Ovulinia azaleae* over-winters in the form of sclerotia (hard-coated survival bodies) on the previous season's diseased flowers, or in the surface soil and leaf litter beneath the plant. When the azalea is nearing its flowering time, the sclerotia germinate. Small, almost microscopic, cup-shaped fruiting bodies are produced, from which spores are discharged. Moist conditions allow the disease to develop. Periods of frequent rainfall or misty weather that coincide with flowering time will accelerate the rate of infection. Overhead watering has the same effect.

#### ***Control***

To begin the new season well, pick off any diseased flowers that have hung on from the previous year and remove leaf litter from beneath infected plants. By the time spots appear on the petals of the new season's flowers, it is usually too late to combat the disease with fungicide. However, fungicide can be used as a protector. As such, it needs to be applied just before bud opening. The best time to spray is when the green buds begin to show their flower colour. For continuing protection, spray again every 7–10 days throughout the flowering period.

### **Fungicide Amgrow 10g Fongarid 81020 – Root rot**



- Only registered for ornamental plants, and so should **not** be used on fruit and vegetable crops
- **Six to ten weeks protection** from soil-borne disease attack depending on rate applied, soil type and cultural practice
- Controls downy mildew, damping off, **root rot** and collar rot
- Follow directions on the pack