

RHODODENDRON CALENDULACEUM (Michx.) Torr.
Flame Azalea

FAMILY: Ericaceae

HABIT: Deciduous shrub to 3 m.; flowering late May-early June; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When in flower, this plant is very distinctive. Its yellow to orange, or occasionally scarlet, flowers set it apart from the very similar *Rhododendron roseum* and *R. nudiflorum*. However, occasional color forms of these species may make sight identification difficult.

TOTAL RANGE: PA and s. OH to GA and AL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Fairfield, Jackson, Pike, and Ross counties.

HABITAT: Open woods and cleared areas on well-drained, acidic soils.

HAZARDS: Dense overshadowing as canopy closes through forest maturation. Collection for horticultural uses. This is the showiest of our native azaleas and is highly prized either as it is or as parent stock for hybrid varieties. Also casual picking of the brightly colored flowers.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good. It grows well in recently opened areas.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. Note the color of the flower. Make an effort to determine if the population is native, as many colonies may represent planted populations.

COMMENTS: Current records may well reflect the general Ohio range of this plant, as it is obvious when in flower and it is a popular plant to collect. It should be sought throughout southeast Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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