A new and distinct cultivar of Azalea plant named ‘RLH1-4P19’, characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading and globose plant habit; freely branching habit; dense, bushy and vigorous growth habit; evergreen and persistent dark green-colored leaves that do not abscise during the winter; freely flowering habit during spring and from summer until frost in autumn; large purple-colored flowers that are not persistent; single star-shaped flower form; and excellent garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets
1. Plants of the new Azalea were more freely branching than plants of ‘Robleg’.
2. Plants of the new Azalea were more freely flowering than plants of ‘Robleg’.
3. Flowers of plants of the new Azalea were purple in color whereas flowers of plants of ’Robleg’ were white in color.
4. Plants of the new Azalea flowered during the spring, summer and autumn whereas plants of ’Robleg’ flowered only in the spring and autumn.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new Azalea plant. These photographs show the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the colors of the new Azalea plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'RLH1-4P19' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical flower of 'RLH1-4P19'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Long Creek, Oconee County, S.C. in 5.7-liter containers, in a polypropylene-covered shade house during the late summer and under commercial production conditions. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 25°C to 35°C and night temperatures ranged from 25°C to 35°C. Plants used for the photographs were five years old and plants used for the description were two years old. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: Rhododendron hybrid ‘RLH1-4P19’.

Commercial classification: Evergreen-type Azalea.

Parentage:
  Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of Rhododendron hybrid identified as number RLH1-1900-RP, not patented.
  Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of Rhododendron hybrid identified as number RLH1-19-PAF, not patented.

Propagation:
  Type.—By semi-hardwood stem cuttings.
  Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 25 to 30 days at temperatures of 27°C to 30°C.
  Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 35 to 45 days at temperatures of 16°C to 17°C.
  Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 60 to 70 days at temperatures of 27°C to 30°C.
  Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 80 to 100 days at temperatures of 16°C to 17°C.
  Root description.—Fine, fibrous; initially white, close to 155C, in color becoming closer to 159C and eventually 164A with development.
  Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:
  Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial and evergreen flowering shrub; compact, upright, outwardly spreading and globose plant habit; freely branching habit; dense, bushy and vigorous growth habit; moderate growth rate; freely flowering habit with numerous showy single flowers.
  Branching habit.—Freely branching habit with about four to six basal branches developing on one year old plants; pinching (removal of terminal apex) will enhance lateral branch development.
  Plant height, soil level to top of flowers.—About 35 cm to 50 cm.
  Plant diameter, area of spread.—About 30 cm to 40 cm.
  Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate; simple. Foliage retention: Very good winter foliage retention has been observed on plants of the new Azalea. Length: About 3 cm to 6.5 cm. Width: About 1 cm to 2.5 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate to elliptic. Apex: Subacute; mucronulate. Base: Cuneate to attenuate. Margin: Entire; slightly revolute; ciliate. Venation pattern: Pinnae; reticulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; coriaceous, tough. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Between 137A and 139A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Between 137A and 139A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C; venation, close to 139A. Petiole: Length: About 6 mm to 10.5 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 1.6 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color: Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 1144D. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 151A.

Flower description:
  Natural flowering season.—Spring, April to May, and then re-flowering during the summer and autumn, July to October, until frost in South Carolina.
  Flower arrangement and appearance.—Single star-shaped flowers arranged in clusters at terminals and sub-terminals with usually about one to three flower buds and three to six flowers per cluster; uniform and freely flowering habit; flowers face upward or outward.
  Flower appearance.—Flowers rotate and rose-like; single flower form; flowers with a single whorl of five petals.
  Flower longevity.—Durable and long-lasting; flowers last about five to ten days on the plant and about three to five days as a cut flower; flowers not persistent.
  Fragrance.—None detected.
  Flower diameter.—About 7 cm to 8 cm.
  Flower depth.—About 4 cm to 4.5 cm.
Flower bud (before showing color).—Length: About 1 cm to 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm to 7 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 137D.

Petals.—Arrangement: Single star-shaped flowers have a single whorl of five petals, fused at the base forming a wide funnel-shaped corolla. Length: About 3 cm to 3.5 cm. Width: About 3 cm to 3.5 cm. Shape: Broadly ovate to orbicular. Apex: Rotund; undulate. Margin: Entire; undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; rugulose; waxy to velvety in appearance. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to N81A; spots and speckles, close to 71A. When opening, lower surface: Close to N81A. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to N78A; spots and speckles, close to 71A; color becoming closer to N78B with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to N78A; color becoming closer to N78B with development.

Petaloids.—Quantity: None to rarely one petaloid present. Length: About 2.5 cm to 3.5 cm. Width: About 1 cm to 1.5 cm. Shape: Obovate to obovate. Apex: Ovate; may be pilate. Margin: Entire; undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; rugulose; waxy. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to N81A. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to N78A; color becoming closer to N78B with development.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Five in a single whorl, fused at the base forming a campanulate to star-shaped corona. Length: About 1.5 cm to 2 cm. Width: About 3.5 mm to 4 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Subulate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire; slightly revolute; ciliate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Densely pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143C; central blotch and streaks, close to 60D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 4 mm. Angle: Mostly upright. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 145A; at maturity, close to 164A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 1.5 cm to 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm to 2 mm. Angle: Upright to outwardly. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 60D; towards the base, close to 145B; becoming closer to N144A with development.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity of stamens per flower: About ten. Filament length: About 3.5 cm to 4.5 cm. Filament color: Close to 67B. Anther shape: Porandrous with four oblong, tubular to lunate-shaped pollen sacks basifixum to the filament. Anther length: About 2.5 mm to 3 mm. Anther color: Close to N186C. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 158B. Gynoecium: Pistil length: About 4.5 cm to 5 cm. Stigma shape: Round to flattened (capitate). Stigma color: Close to N79B. Style length: About 4.4 cm to 5.9 cm. Style color: Close to 61B. Ovary color: Close to 143B.

Fruits.—Quantity per plant: About three to five. Length: About 8 mm to 10 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm to 5 mm. Texture: Slightly rugulose to scabridulose; glandular, sericeous. Color: Close to 146C; at maturity, close to 165A.

Seeds.—Quantity per fruit: About 50 to 200. Length: About 1 mm to 1.5 mm. Diameter: About 0.2 mm to 0.3 mm. Color: Close to 165B.

Weather/temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Azalea have been observed to be very tolerant to rain and wind. Plants of the new Azalea have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about -25°C to about 40°C and are suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 6 to 9.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Azaleas.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Azalea plant named ‘RLH1-4P19’ as illustrated and described.