

## Miyama Kirishima azaleas

Miyama Kirishima azaleas grow at over 1,000 meters above sea level in the volcanic soil of Kyushu's mountains. They thrive in volcanic areas that have sulfur dioxide in the soil and cold weather, a harsh environment for most other plants. In fact, during periods with little volcanic activity and temperate weather, these colorful shrubs are often overrun by alders and hydrangeas. Miyama Kirishima azaleas bloom around May and June, adding bright spots of pink and purple to the mountainsides.