Lafayette’s famous Azalea Trail, one of the greatest floral treats in the south, is officially scheduled to begin today according to a joint announcement by the Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber of Commerce of Lafayette.

Providing there is no interference from cold and inclement weather, the flowers should be at their peak for the next four or five weeks.

The Azalea Trail will include about 25 miles of floral splendor. Surrounded by many other early spring flowers, the city of Lafayette offers one of the most beautiful floral displays to be found in the country. “A display of such breath-taking floral color and beauty that it cannot be described in words” is the comment often heard from the visitor after he has seen for the first time Lafayette’s beautiful azaleas during the peak of the blooming season.

The azalea is believed to be a native of East Asia and brought to the Gulf Coast area by missionaries over two centuries ago. Some of the largest plants still blooming around Lafayette are over a half century old. There are 50 distinct species: also a number of botanical varieties originated as bud sprouts. Azaleas in all sizes, dwarf to jumbo, in colors from white, salmon, lavender, pale pink to bright red can be seen on the well-marked Azalea Trail winding around the city streets.

The annual Floral Trail is a pilgrimage for thousands of nature lovers during these weeks. There is no admission charge — Lafayette welcomes all to share its beauty.