"A display of such breathtaking color and beauty that it cannot be described in words," is the expression so often heard from the visitor after he has first seen Lafayette's beautiful Azaleas during the peak of the blooming season.

The months of February and March will probably find the colorful and varied Azaleas at the height of glory. Surrounded by many other spring flowers, the City of Lafayette offers one of the most beautiful floral displays to be found in the country.

The Azalea is classed in the rhododendron family and is claimed to be a native of East Asia and brought to the Gulf Coast area by millionaires over two centuries ago. Home of the largest plants still blooming around Lafayette are over a half century old and have attained large proportions. There are 50 distinct species; also a number of botanical varieties and forms occurring in nature and a number of horticultural classes, originated as bud sprouts.

There are many varities of Azaleas to be found in the city, but the Formosa variety predominates and seems to thrive here, the City has adopted it for its very own and has christened it the General Lafayette. This species has a touch of lavender in it and borders on the shade of fuscia.

It is glorious, rich in color, with a definite appeal seeming to fit in almost anywhere, making it a feast for the eye. 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 Azalea Trail conducted by the Lafayette Jaycees includes miles of floral splendor marked by street signs, a lawn judging contest and the crowning of the Azalea Queen.