Coast Azalea ‘Choptank River Sweet’  
*Rhododendron atlanticum* x *periclymenoides*

4-6’, graceful upright shrub, forming dense and slowly expanding mound.

The Choptank Hybrids evolved spontaneously around the headwaters of the Choptank River in Maryland, from parents Coastal Azalea (native from Delaware to Georgia) and Pinxterbloom Azalea (native from MA to GA). Found in sandy moist soils in hummocks, barrens, and moist woods.

Bright peach buds open to richly fragrant peach-hued 1-1.5” flowers flushed with orange-red, maturing to buff yellow flushed with peach, with a bright golden flare holding long red stamens. Bloom time late May into June, just before or during leafing. 4-10 flowers per cluster.

Blue-green leaves, 1.5” long x .5” wide.

Part shade, with some sun tolerance if soil moist. Prefers moist to damp well-drained acidic soil, tolerates average moisture. Likes leafy mulch.

In its native sandy soil sometimes spreads very far, while heavy soil restricts spread from root suckers.

Hardy to –20.

Ideal for smaller spaces. Use for woodland edges, shady borders, as a bank stabilizer along streams and lakes. In moist sandy soils can form a good-sized low-maintenance groundcover.

Attracts hummingbirds, songbirds, butterflies, bumblebees.

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Photos 1-3  
North Central Conservation District  
Photos 4-6  
Longwood Gardens  
plantexplorer.longwoodgardens.org/weboi/oecgi2.exe/INET_ECM_DispPl?NAMENUM=17216&startpage=1#images