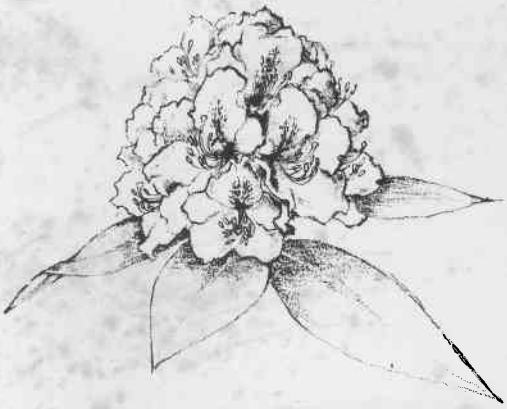

Rhododendron Society of Canada

Société Canadienne du Rhododendron

Bulletin 1979
Volume 8 Number 1

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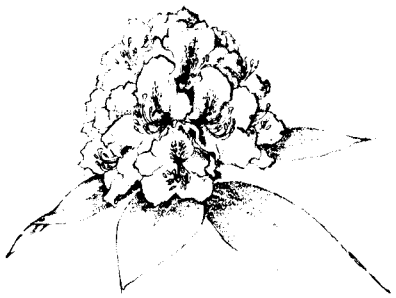

Rhododendron Society of Canada

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For information write to David Hinton,
R.R. 2, Orono, Ontario L0B 1M0.
For membership write to Dr. H.G. Hedges,
4271 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, Ontario L7L 1A7.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It is my pleasure to report to members the appointment of Barbara Wilkins of Toronto to the position of Assistant Editor for the Bulletin. This is the second issue in which I have been truly assisted by her skill and efficiency - as witness the promptness of delivery of the "Spring" issue!

Most gratifying is the response to my appeal for Bulletin material. It is difficult to mention any one article in this issue - they cover such a wide range of subjects; each presents food for thought about rhodos. Thank you to all contributors, and keep it up.

We do however wish especially to thank Richard M. Saunders for his paper on Flower Photography. Professor Saunders is co-author, with Mary Ferguson, of the book "Canadian Wildflowers" (Van Nostrand Reinhold 1976) - a most exquisite volume with which, I am sure, many of you are familiar. I believe that all members will find his advice most helpful in recording the glory of our springtime gardens for prolonged enjoyment throughout the year. (Why not take two of everything and send some slides to the Slide Library!)

I would also draw attention to the report from Nova Scotia, indicating the changed date for the RSC 8th Annual Meeting and Flower Show, hosted by the Atlantic Region. The event has been set for June 15-17/79 in Halifax. The one week time advance will mean that those who attend will be able to see a much wider selection of bloom, the Maritime spring being somewhat later than that of Southern Ontario.

Niagara Peninsula Region and Toronto Region will both be having Flower Shows -on May 26th and June 3rd respectively. There will be chances for members to see many more varieties spanning a long blooming period, and more opportunities for gardeners to become acquainted with the diversity and beauty of the Rhododendron genus.

REFLECTIONS ON PLANTING AND GROWING RHODODENDRONS

R. A. Fleming Grimsby, Ontario

A great deal of attention is paid by experienced rhododendron gardeners in the initial preparation of the planting site for new plants. With the price of new rhododendrons of flowering size rising each year it is essential that as few losses as possible result.

No one factor in soil preparation is going to ensure success. It is a combination of factors which will determine the degree of success. Some factors are to all intents and purposes, unknown. We've all had those unhappy occasions when a prize specimen has turned up its toes for no "earthly" reason. And all we can do as rhododendron fanciers is to try again.

The main factors of success are quite simple — soil, organic matter, site and climate. The only one we cannot adequately control is climate. However, we can

modify climatic extremes by various means such as heavy mulches — even to the extent of covering whole plants — for winter protection not only from cold, but as protection against leaf, bud and twig desiccation. We can shade plantings naturally or artificially, and irrigate during the growing season as aids in moisture control. Aside from selecting a site which may aid in modifying adverse climatic conditions, there is little else we can do about climate except plant the hardiest cultivars.

Soil we can modify. And modify it we surely do, often to the extent of completely replacing unsuitable soil with the perfect mix — a highly organic material, well drained yet moisture retentive, well supplied with necessary plant foods and with a moderately acid reaction of pH 4.5 to 5.5. The problem is in maintaining this "ideal" growing medium.

In most Ontario gardens, soils are basically neutral or slightly alkaline. Our water supplies are derived from wells sunk through calciferous rock or drawn from lakes bordered by escarpments composed of limestone. The breakdown of organic matter in our ideal soil may bring about a rise in pH to levels not considered suitable for our finicky ericaceous prima donnas. Many factors, in other words, are working against us in maintaining that highly organic, moderately acid, fertile growing medium.

Many years ago, when rhododendrons were only an idea in a young horticulturist's mind, some beautiful deciduous azaleas grew in amongst the more common flowering shrubs in the plantings of the Horticultural Research Institute at Vineland. Each year they performed beautifully — not outstanding as to colour — pinkish orange — but striking when in flower. Obviously, from the appearance of the soil, the plants had been properly "treated" at planting. I suspect that was the last special care they received, and yet they continued to perform well in the soil which, granted, was still highly organic in nature, but was neutral in reaction! Since then many of the rhododendrons in the H.R.I.O. plantings have received the same treatment — adequate preparation initially but no regular follow up treatment to ensure moderate acidity at the plant's roots.

How do you maintain ideal soil conditions around a plant's root without causing injury to those roots? Why disturb the plant if it appears to be thriving even though certain conditions, to our minds are not optimum? We can only do what we consider the best for our plants initially. By combining as many factors for good growth as possible at planting time — site, soil, drainage and acidity — we offer healthy plants a sure start. Provided the majority of essential factors are maintained — a well drained, fertile, organic soil on a selected site — I believe the ericaceous plants in our collections will adapt to changes as they grow without affecting their performance to any great degree, or lessening our enjoyment of their culture. This does not mean to ignore recommended practices, but to compromise with nature as a natural process takes place. Renew organic matter around the base of the plant, use a recommended plant food, correct deficiency symptoms as they occur but don't over-react. More plants are destroyed by unintentional kindness than by most other causes. To sum it all up in a few words, where we have done our best, let nature take its course.

WHAT ABOUT EVERGREEN AZALEA HARDINESS?

Capt. R. M. Steele Rose Bay, Nova Scotia

HERE BY THE SEA THERE ARE A FEW OF US WHO ARE ALWAYS SEEKING INTERESTING, HARDY AND BEAUTIFUL PLANTS. WE DO SO AGGRESSIVELY AND SHAMELESSLY BUT OFTEN WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE.

You must pardon our play on words — but — the Pride we refer to is Orlando S. Pride of Butler, Pennsylvania; a quiet, reserved, almost shy gentleman of very substantial importance to rhododendron enthusiasts in Canada, both for the present and in the future.

The reason Lanny Pride is important to us is that for more than fifty years he has been growing and breeding rhododendrons, azaleas and hollies in an area of North America where winter temperatures are often very cold. He started growing these plants, although at that time all the advice was that they could not survive in that climate.

Lanny not only produced plants of rhododendrons, azaleas and hollies that have survived but in doing so he has established genetic hardiness qualities which will be of great benefit to those in the future who may wish to breed these plants for cold Canadian areas.

Orlando Pride is one of the important Plantsmen of our time. His tenacity over a very long period was not limited to hardiness alone. He is an objective and skilled judge of beauty in plants and many of his creations have been major award winners.

In Nova Scotia we have so far had very limited results from our attempts to find evergreen azaleas which will perform satisfactorily here. Our recent breeding with the Japanese species *R. nakaharai* and also *R. kiusianum* have produced plants that are encouraging.

Before embarking on more extensive breeding for hardy azaleas, we asked Lanny about his azaleas and his experience and observations. Here is what Lanny says:

LETTER FROM LANNY

November 19, 1978

"I have been intending to write a fifty-year report on azaleas that I have tried in Butler, and what has survived and flowered with distinction. When I got out of Penn State in 1928 and started in the landscape business there were practically no evergreen azaleas on the market that had a ghost of a chance to live and bloom in Butler. I bought one hundred plants of Azalea Kaempferi from Henry Kohankie Nursery in Painesville, Ohio, for Mrs. Beendum of Pittsburgh, Pa. She turned the entire order down because they looked so sick and I was stuck with them. I planted them out in my nursery and they slowly died out. I don't think I ever saw a flower on any of them. About 1933. Charles Robinson, a Landscape Architect and a fraternity brother of mine, told me about a man named Joseph Gable of Stewartstown, Pa. who had a quantity of large-sized azaleas. Chuck was the landscape architect for the Fort Necessity Park near Uniontown, Pa.

Chuck had me order about one hundred and fifty of these azaleas for the park. Well, my brother Arthur and I went down to Gable's and bought our first load of these beautiful plants. They were un-named ones and about 2½ - 3′ tall - big full plants. Shortly after Art and I went back down to Gable's and bought another hundred plants and brought them to Butler. Fifty of these azaleas were sold to Dr. Norbert S. Garbisch and were planted in his three-acre garden. Some were planted on the J. S. Campbell estate. We retained about twenty-five for our own experimental work. A few years later a friend of Mr. Garbisch, T. J. Ingram of Pittsburgh, ordered one hundred of Gable's azaleas, which we planted on his estate on Woodland Road in Pittsburgh. During all these visits to Gable's we would buy small azaleas of the named varieties which were available from time to time. Many of these were simply by numbers. We soon learned that all the small-sized named azaleas split bark and promptly died during our severe winters, but the large unnamed azaleas survived and bloomed quite well. It was some time later when we went back to Gable's for more azaleas that he told us the Dauber Nursery at York, Pa. had larger plants of a good many of his named azaleas. We then purchased a few hundred of the named Gable azaleas from Dauber's Nursery and found that they survived and bloomed to some extent when the winters were not too severe.

About ten years after we had planted the first hundred un-named azaleas from Joseph Gable, we found that three of these had bloomed very well in the Garbisch Garden for the past ten years without a miss. I named a beautiful peach pink for their daughter, Nadine; a very bright orchid pink for another daughter, Marjorie; a very beautiful coral for their daughter, Vicky. This is perhaps the most beautiful plant of the group but not quite as bud-hardy. Another, a vivid kaempferi red was named for Mrs. Garbisch, and one, which I called 'Norbert' was named for Mr. Garbisch. It also is a very vivid kaempferi red.

The three which bloomed every year for the ten years were 'Nadine', 'Marjorie' and one I called 'Pale Lilac'. Now 'Nadine' never went over very well due to the fact that it does not root readily, nor is it very vigorous when small. It takes five years or more to produce a 15″ plant. 'Marjorie' is very vigorous and has been grown by a very successful nurseryman. It still does not compete with the more tender azaleas in making a saleable plant in a hurry. 'Pale Lilac' is simply a large flowered azalea about the color of 'Corsage'. 'Pale Lilac' roots like privet and is perhaps the most hardy azalea we ever grew in this area. It grows like a weed and if it were a good red, would be worth a fortune. Donald Zaum of Wasco, Illinois, fifty miles west of Chicago, has had 'Pale Lilac' and 'Marjorie' for a number of years. He reported that 'Pale Lilac' was the only azalea to bloom for him after the winter of 1977 when he had minus 28° F.

Anyway, to finish up the story about 'Nadine', 'Marjorie' and 'Pale Lilac', they have now bloomed every year in the Garbisch Garden in Butler for the past thirty years. At my nursery 5 miles south of Butler they have missed a few of the thirty years, yet the plants are in perfect health.

Shortly after I found that 'Nadine', 'Marjorie' and 'Pale Lilac' were so bud-hardy I started growing thousands of seedlings each year. Also started was the crossing of many of them with 'Nadine', 'Marjorie', and 'Pale Lilac'. I had a very small

greenhouse out at my nursery located in a low area below a spring, which kept it well watered without much help. I would plant this entire house with seeds of 'Nadine', 'Marjorie' and 'Pale Lilac', and have a crop of as many as 50,000 per year. I had seedlings coming out of my ears.

One year I crossed 'Nadine' with Gable's 'Rose Greely'. 'Rose Greely' split bark every year and I had trouble keeping it alive. Anyhow, I finally got a small amount of seed from this cross and they came up beautifully, about 35 plants. Well, a flash flood came down my little valley and covered every seedling in my greenhouse with mud. I thought I had lost everything, but I took a sprinkling can and started washing off the mud and to my surprise, I saved quite a few. The little group of 'Nadine' x 'Rose Greely' had all passed out except for one husky plant. I prized the little fellow and guess what - it grew up to be the hardiest white I ever had. I named it 'Joseph Gable'. I was reluctant at first to name it for such a great person, and certainly didn't want to name a poor azalea for him. Anyhow, Caroline Gable has it and thinks highly of it. It has taken a number of years to prove itself. It is without a doubt the most bud-hardy white I have ever tested here in Butler. The flowers are the size of 'Rose Greely', but the plant is a good strong grower and has never been injured in any way in 20 years or more. Heasley Nursery is growing it commercially with good success.

In the winter of 1949, I had a field of 'Nadine', 'Marjorie' and 'Pale Lilac' seedlings — about 20,000 of them. That winter the temperature dropped to 20 below F. or more and the following spring I selected about fifty and named them. I called them the 49-ers. These all did very well for me until the winter and spring of 1963 when some of these plants were injured, when a late spring freeze killed even small white oaks. However, the following azaleas of the 49-ers have survived without any plant injury and have flowered with great display over many years. They are 'Charles A. Pride', 'Betty Pride', 'Dr. Kottraba', 'Mrs. Cribbs', 'Mrs. John Wilson', 'Ling Close' and 'Red Satin'. There are perhaps another ten or so that should be named.

Late spring frosts were the bug-a-boo to many of our azaleas; just as they would come into bloom we would have a heavy frost and very often a deep freeze, and away would go all our pretty flowers. I thought that it was about time that I looked for the later blooming azaleas, so about 25 years ago I started on the search of the later ones. 'Pride's Pink' is perhaps the latest to bloom for me but I have not had it long enough to have a good test for the buds. 'Pride's White' is very plant hardy and also bud-hardy. 'Pride's Pride' is also late and has bloomed very well after late killing frosts.

In my opinion, it takes at least 15 years to really test a plant. After that time has passed, you begin to feel the plant may be worthy of being planted in greater numbers.

The following named azaleas have been grown in our nursery, but most of these only bloom with any degree of success every ten years. 'Springtime' was recommended to me by Mr. Gable as being very bud-hardy, but I am sorry to report that it has only bloomed once in every five or six years. The following Gable azaleas have survived our winters fairly well as plants, but only have a good show of flowers

about every ten years: 'Stewartstonian', 'Herbert', 'Purple Splendor', 'Caroline', 'LaRoche', 'Corsage', 'Mildred Mae', 'James Gable', 'Chinook', 'Mary Frances Hawkins', 'Boudoir', 'Billy', 'Louise Gable', 'Elizabeth Gable', 'Rose Bud', 'Lorna', 'Indian Summer', 'Springtime', 'Carol', 'Campfire', 'Jimmie Cover', 'Palestrina', and 'Margie'.

About 15 years ago I crossed R-4-G, which is now named 'Margie', with some of the most bud-hardy hybrids of 'Nadine'. Many of these hybrids have been quite bud-hardy and show promise for testing elsewhere. 'Susan Page' is one that is a coral pink hose-in-hose and does very well for me. Another which is very late is 'Pride's Pride'. It has had a very good record.

The great hurdle to overcome in growing the Obtusum azaleas in a severe climate like ours, is getting the young plants to survive the first few winters. I have had very little trouble rooting all the semi-evergreen azaleas, then carrying them over in a greenhouse until the following spring. They are then planted out in beds after danger of late frosts and then mulched with pine boughs the first winter they are out. Then if we get a severe early freeze, nearly all these young azaleas will split bark and die. I wish I had a nickle for every semi-evergreen azalea that I lost due to the splitting of the bark at the soil line. The bark splitting is so bad on some varieties that it will occur to plants that are three years old. That is the reason I never had any plants of 'Caroline' to sell. The azaleas which I named for Mr. and Mrs. Garbisch, namely 'Victoria' and 'Norbert', split bark even after three years in the field.

Over the period of years, I came up with a group of our hybrids that did not split bark, survived the first few winters and grew on into landscape-sized plants. I was always careful not to fertilize any of these azaleas. If we had late rains and the plants kept on growing in the fall, and there was an early heavy frost in early fall, I could expect to lose a good many. However, I did come up with a group of what I called no-splits. 'Marjorie' and 'Pale Lilac' are perhaps the most foolproof and produce the most saleable plants for me in the shortest period of time. I crossed a hardy hose-in-hose, 'Linwood White' with Joseph Kallay's 'Snowball' and the result was our 'Pride White'. It is a single white, but is the most evergreen of all my hybrids and very bud-hardy. Out of all the many thousand hybrid seedlings which I grew, I think the most bud-hardy reds are 'Winnie Greer' and 'Sam Greer'. These are selected out of a field of thousands as the most bud-hardy. They are not very vigorous when young but do grow into fine plants in time. The other red is 'Gordon Greer'. It is more vigorous and should be worth trying.

I have just looked over the list of azaleas that I rooted and planted out the past spring. Some of these may be worth another look; that is why I rooted them and hope to grow them on. They are 'Thor', perhaps a little more bud hardy than 'Marjorie'; 'Shell', an old timer that Dave thought very hardy; 'Red Poukhanense', 'Pride's Old Faithful', 'Pride Super Hino-Red', 'Everbloom', 'Jack Jamison', 'Sue Paterno', 'Nudiflora Pink', 'Edith'.

To sum up the search for the perfectly bud-hardy semi-evergreen azalea for climates like mine, I think the only approach is to find two very hardy parents, cross them and grow a very large population of seedlings. Even when you cross two very hardy parents, the offspring do not necessarily give you a very high percentage of bud-hardy plants. Many times it appeared to me that the offspring were not as bud-hardy as the parents. It is very much like trying to find the needle in the haystack, and worse yet, it takes 15 years or more.

I have developed some very hardy deciduous azaleas which seem to be more bud-hardy than many of the Exbury and Ilams. I'll try and give you a report on them later. I hope to be able to write up my first fifty years with rhododendrons. That will take a little more time.

Sincerely,

Lanny

A SPECIAL AWARD TO RAY HALWARD

It is a great pleasure to report that another of our members has been honoured with a special award.

Ray E. Halward, of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, was presented with the Award of Merit by the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society, *in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the art and science of plant propagation.*

The presentation was made at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Region which was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, November 28 to December 1, 1978. The motto of this Society is "To seek and to share", and the citation acknowledged Ray's devotion to this ideal — he has never missed a meeting of the Society since he became a member in 1953; he contributed many papers on his plant experiences over the years; he served on many committees and as an Officer of the Society. This recent very successful meeting was shaped by Ray's work over the past two years as Chairman of the Programme Committee.

For a number of years Ray has been working in the field of horticulture for the handicapped, as a form of therapy and perhaps more importantly, as a way of integrating these special people into the work force and providing satisfying scope for their abilities. This is truly "seeking and sharing".

Our own Society has benefitted greatly from Ray's support. A Charter Member, he served as a Director from its inception, as President in 1973-74, Past President and again as Director since that time. Our earliest Flower Shows were successful due in large measure to his expertise and enthusiasm.

With pride we extend our congratulations to you, Ray, for this richly deserved award.

THE RHODODENDRON FOUNDATION — A PLANT BANK

In order to preserve reliable and valid specimens of important rhododendrons, and also to provide living visual reference libraries of mature plants which will show the eventual size, the plant habit and the character of the foliage and the flower display, a group of Canadian plant enthusiasts have formed "The Rhododendron Foundation".

Foundations are usually monetary funds set up to support specific purposes. This Rhododendron Foundation is intended to be a fund of important plant material rather than "Bundles of Bucks".

Although it will require some funds to meet operating expenses, it is intended to stringently restrain expenditures and to lean heavily on voluntary contributions of plant material and physical labour. A permanent "Non - Sinking Fund" will be established and contributions to this fund will be very much appreciated. The secretary is L. Grover Jewett, c/o Bank of Montreal, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

The initial constitution of the Rhododendron Foundation is:

PURPOSE

To establish and appropriately preserve both living plants and herbarium specimens that are pertinent to the history of, and to the future development and knowledge of rhododendrons.

AIMS

To establish Rhododendron Arboreta of the Species and of significant collections of hybrids.

To arrange for the acquisition of valid herbarium material of the rhododendron species and for its suitable preservation.

To distribute valid seed and pollen when this is reasonably practicable.

To publish pertinent information.

Functions of the Initial Working Group

(i) Establish an Arboretum
(ii) Establish a Rhododendron Species Collection
(iii) Establish Collections of important hybrid rhododendrons (with first priority on the plants of GABLE, BRUECKNER, PRIDE, HANCOCK, and GEO. FRASER)
(iv) Establish appropriate records on the plants collected, including their source and appraised validity
(v) Encourage and advise regarding plant collecting (or hunting) of rododendrons and other ericaceous plants
(vi) To encourage and assist in plant breeding, and when feasible to arrange pollen and seed distribution

CANADIAN GARDENERS and the CANADIAN ORNAMENTAL PLANT FOUNDATION

R. J. Hilton Guelph, Ontario

We are told that M. Louis Hebert began modern gardening in Canada in 1604. But well before he was showing the local MicMacs his Norman forms of grain and pulses, the native Amerindians were selecting superior varieties (we call them cultivars now) from their plots of corn, pumpkin, squash, bean, marigold and sunflower, all plants indigenous to North America. As populations increased, the need for some protection for the breeder or selector of new cultivars became increasingly evident and this has led to attempts to establish mandatory or voluntary controls over the distribution of propagation material from certain designated plants.

For about four decades the U.S.A. has had a system whereby the owner of a "distinct and new variety" of plant may be granted patent protection under The Plant Variety Protection Act. In the United Kingdom a different but equally effective legislation is in force to ensure "breeders' rights" for originators or their assignees to prevent uncontrolled exploitation of new plant cultivars.

Not all plant kinds are subject to control by breeders' rights legislation. Many seed-propagated kinds are too hard to keep under seed dissemination surveillance; thus control legislation will apply principally to increase by vegetative propagation. There are certain seed-propagated kinds of plants that are included in breeders' rights schemes but these are few in number compared with those propagated by means of grafting, rooting of cuttings or by crown division.

Shortly after World War II Canadian horticulturists began actively to lobby for a Canada Plant Patent Act. A Royal Commission was appointed to study the whole patent situation in Canada and reported, in 1956, that a patent system for plants would be unsuited to Canada's needs. In the opinion of the commissioners, plant breeders in this country would neither be stimulated to produce new cultivars nor adequately protected by such legislation.

Canadian nurserymen generally, and floricultural producers in particular, disagreed strongly with the Commission opinion. Through the Allied Florists and Growers of Canada Inc. and the Canadian Nursery Trades Association they worked to create, in December of 1964, the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation, better known simply as COPF. This is a non-profit organization with a federal charter, formed to encourage domestic and foreign distribution of worthy Canadian ornamental plant material and to obtain promising introductions or at least to maintain a registry of them. The Foundation encourages and in some cases assists financially agencies and programs, in the breeding, propagating and testing of superior ornamental plant cultivars.

Space here does not allow a detailed outline of the many-faceted operation of COPF but RSC members may be interested to learn that the COPF Board of Directors is made up of industry, government and university horticulturists representing both geographical and trade areas. In brief, the Foundation provides a sorting and registration service for new cultivars from Canadian and foreign sources; offers encouragement, advice and sometimes financial help in selecting and evaluating new ornamental plant cultivars; and forms a valuable connecting link

between commercial, amateur and public service breeders and propagators, and indeed between all agencies involved in research in ornamental horticulture. The Secretary-Treasurer is Lloyd J. Murray, and the Foundation office is in Durham, Ontario.

The COPF has funded a study of plant hardiness zones in Southern Ontario. This work was directed from the Horticultural Science Department at Guelph and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton and it was done in order to refine the "All Canadian Plant Hardiness Map" developed by Ouellet and Sherk at Ottawa. Another COPF project involved the use of gamma irradiation to induce mutations in Rieger Begonias; and in another instance, tissue culture techniques have been developed with support from COPF, to speed up vegetative propagation of Saint-Paulia and Peperomia.

There is a fee charged by the Foundation for registration of new cultivars by name and description and in excess of 2,000 new plants are now registered. The majority of these are Rose, Chrysanthemum, Poinsettia, Begonia and Kalachoë but there is an excellent selection of new Flowering Crabapples, Flowering Plums, Mountain Ashes, Maples, Ashes and other plants of ornamental significance, both woody and herbaceous. Included are several new cultivars of Rhododendron and these are exciting forms from Vineland in Ontario, and Kentville in Nova Scotia.

Because the Foundation offers a means for registering and, where appropriate, publicizing the entry on the horticultural scene of new ornamental plants, it deserves strong support. This is developing from all who are concerned with breeding and/or selecting such plants. At the present time a Foundation Brief is under active study by Agriculture Canada officers in Ottawa and Breeders' Rights legislation, designed to suit Canadian conditions, may be before parliament in the near future.

FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard M. Saunders Toronto, Ontario.

Taking pictures of flowers is a venture in sympathetic understanding, necessarily so since every flowering plant has a character all its own and a distinctive place in the realm of nature. Studying the individuality of a plant is a needful prelude to the taking of pictures, if those pictures are to reveal the true nature of the plant. Command of technique, essential as it may be, will never by itself give the portrayal of plant beauty and character that are desired. Only a combination of feeling, knowledge and technique will do that. Plainly, flower photography is an art that makes use of technique.

The first essential from the technical point of view is to make sure that the right kind of camera is being used. For the flower photographer the most convenient

camera is the 35mm single lens reflex type. This is compact, light in weight and above all enables the user to change lenses as differing conditions require. It is also important to note that with this type of camera you can look through the view finder and compose your picture so as to see exactly what you are trying to get. Moreover you can try the effects of using various openings from the widest, say f.1.8, to the smallest, usually f.22, and decide by this means how you want your picture to look.

The general lens, a 50mm as a rule, which comes with the camera, may be used for general effects, e.g., a shrub at a few feet, a field of flowers, etc., but by itself it is not satisfactory for close-up pictures of flowers or any other object. For these it is necessary to use special close-up equipment. The simplest and most economical forms of this are Portra lenses and extension tubes, the former being added at the front of the regular lens, the latter being placed between the camera and the lens. These come singly or in sets, usually sets of 3 lenses, and may be used to achieve life-size or larger pictures. Great care, however, must be taken with them to get precise focus or blurring may result. Better close-ups may be more easily taken with a macro lens, a single lens which is used in place of the regular lens and which has the advantage of being able to serve as a general lens as well as for close-ups. This type of lens comes in varying sizes, e.g., 50mm, 90mm and 100mm, and is nowadays probably the most widely used close-up apparatus. For myself, although I use macro lenses, I still prefer to use a bellows and a short-mount lens, a 105mm in my case. The bellows, put between camera and lens, can be freely racked in and out to produce various arrangements and magnifications that can be readily seen through the view finder. Admittedly, a 100mm macro lens will give approximately the same latitude in use and is now generally preferred because of its greater simplicity of operation.

Whatever close-up apparatus is chosen it should be borne in mind that it is requisite to use a tripod in taking all such pictures, as it is virtually impossible otherwise to be sure of obtaining precision and definition of detail at such close quarters. It is even wise to use a tripod when taking general pictures wherever possible to escape the faults resulting from inadvertent movements made either by the photographer or by outside sources such as wind. A tripod should be as light as possible for convenient carrying but sturdy enough to be firm in a strong breeze. Also, a cable release should be used so as to make it unnecessary to touch the camera-tripod set-up once the picture has been arranged for taking.

In selecting the flower to be pictured it is important to select the best possible subject since any defects, even apparently insignificant ones, will show up in the picture, particularly in close-ups.

It is necessary also to look at the subjects from all sides to assess the lighting effects, for a flower will look quite differently from different angles. Front lighting can be used effectively, but it can have a flattening influence and so make it hard to bring out flower details suitably. Side lighting is highly superior if one wants to show structure, texture and detail. Back lighting can be very dramatic, enabling one to get striking silhouettes, glowing rim light, and to show up such delicate features as hairs on the stem, as in the case of the staghorn sumach. One must,

though, be very careful in assessing the needed exposure and in balancing the light and dark areas.

It is commonly supposed that good pictures can only be taken in sunlight, but with flower pictures this is often a very dubious procedure. Bright sunlight may bring out hopelessly contrasting dark and light effects that make unpleasing pictures. Moreover, it tends to make some flowers glaring and brash; others it can fade or cause colour shifts so that one does not get a true colour in the picture. White, pink and blue are especially likely to be badly affected. On the whole it is preferable to take most flowers on cloudy or hazy days when there is an even, gentle light. On a sunny day low early morning or late afternoon lighting is the best and the middle hours of the day the poorest time to take flower pictures, though it is possible to work satisfactorily in shady areas. It is also possible to cut down excessive light by using an umbrella (a white, semi-translucent one is needed) or by holding a sheet of plastic (preferably a slightly grey form) between the sun and the flower. This helps to remove unwanted shadows and can give pleasing even colour tones.

Blue is the colour most badly affected by sunlight since it is likely to be faded, whitened or turned reddish as anyone who has tried to picture such flowers as chicory, fringed gentian and blue lobelia will know. This experience is so general that I think it may be said that the first rule should be, *Never* try to take blue flowers in the sunlight. It is far better to use low light or shade. Just before sunrise or at sundown are good times to work with flowers in real or artificial shade. A blue filter, attached to the front of the camera lens, can be a help though you may run the risk of blueing the leaves, the stem and other parts of the plant, especially in low light. Some people use electronic flash units successfully in taking blue flowers and consider that the high speed of the flash overcomes the colour difficulty. Under-exposure by half or a full stop is also sometimes helpful.

One of the most difficult problems for the flower photographer is posed by backgrounds which are frequently near, disturbing and distracting, drawing attention away from the main subject, the flower. It is necessary to avoid or to eliminate such distractions if possible, and if it is not possible then it would be wise not to take the picture as only disappointment can result. Avoidance may sometimes be accomplished by taking a different angle of view; for instance, getting down to a low angle that will enable you to have a simple sky background, or you may look and find a similar flower that has a plain water background. Simplicity and concentration of interest on the subject should be achieved in some way. If a messy background cannot be avoided it may often be eliminated in one of two ways: 1) By selective focus, that is, by using the wider camera openings such as f.8, f.5.6 or even wider. If one focusses on the flower the troublesome background can often be blurred out, frequently with pleasing, even enhancing results. 2) By creating a shadow just behind the flower and thus obscuring the disturbing background. Here again the umbrella can serve a useful purpose. If such details of the flower as the stamens and pistils are of first concern then very small openings such as f.16, f.22, f.32 must be used in order to overcome the problem of depth of field involved in such close magnification. Background should not, however, be a serious difficulty in that sort of close picture.

R. hirsutum This is one of two highly prized Alpine species, known in Switzerland as Alpenrose. Our picture was taken at Alpiglen on the east slope of the Jungfrau massif. Because of a troublesome, busy background at a level angle it was necessary to adopt a low angle viewpoint which required the photographer in this alpine pasture to lie flat in a broad deposit of cow manure; fortunately it was dry. What one will do for a picture!
Photo: R.M. Saunders

Above all, in flower photography patience is a prime essential. A good flower picture is never likely to be a snapshot. Experts expect to take many minutes, even up to an hour, in evaluating, composing and taking a picture. Some have waited hours to get just the right light. Practice and persistence also count heavily, for the best way to learn to take good flower pictures is to take pictures and more pictures and more pictures. There is no magic formula for success in this field. As in other forms of art, so in flower photography, experience must be added to native talent, to the eye that sees, to a sense of composition, to a feeling for balance of colour and tone. Nor is there any magic camera; a basic one, yes, but a more expensive camera can never guarantee the taking of better pictures. In the last analysis, granted the basic camera and a reasonable knowledge of technique, it is the person behind the camera who is the true creator of beautiful pictures.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Our programme of presentations to horticultural societies, garden clubs and similar groups is gaining momentum. Ten groups have been addressed with a total audience of over 500. We expect another busy year and have already visited the Mount Hamilton Horticultural Society on February 16 and the Dundas Horticultural Society, February 26. A display area and slide show were also planned for a Landscape Ontario Show, March 5-10/79 at Devonshire Mall, Windsor. Plans have been made for a presentation to the Kitchener-Waterloo Garden Club on April 23. Our members who would like to attend this event are asked to contact the programme convenor, Jean Tuffin (519) 743-1306.

Dorothea Lovat Dickson gave an illustrated presentation to the Garden Club of Toronto on February 22, with particular emphasis on the selection, siting and culture of the rhododendrons and azaleas when used in landscaping.

We invite our members to bring to the attention of their local horticultural groups the programmes available from our Society.

PROPAGATING CASE FOR CUTTINGS

Fred Gallop Mississauga, Ontario

The propagating case illustrated here provides the light, humidity and bottom heat which are essential for the successful rooting of rhododendron and azalea cuttings.

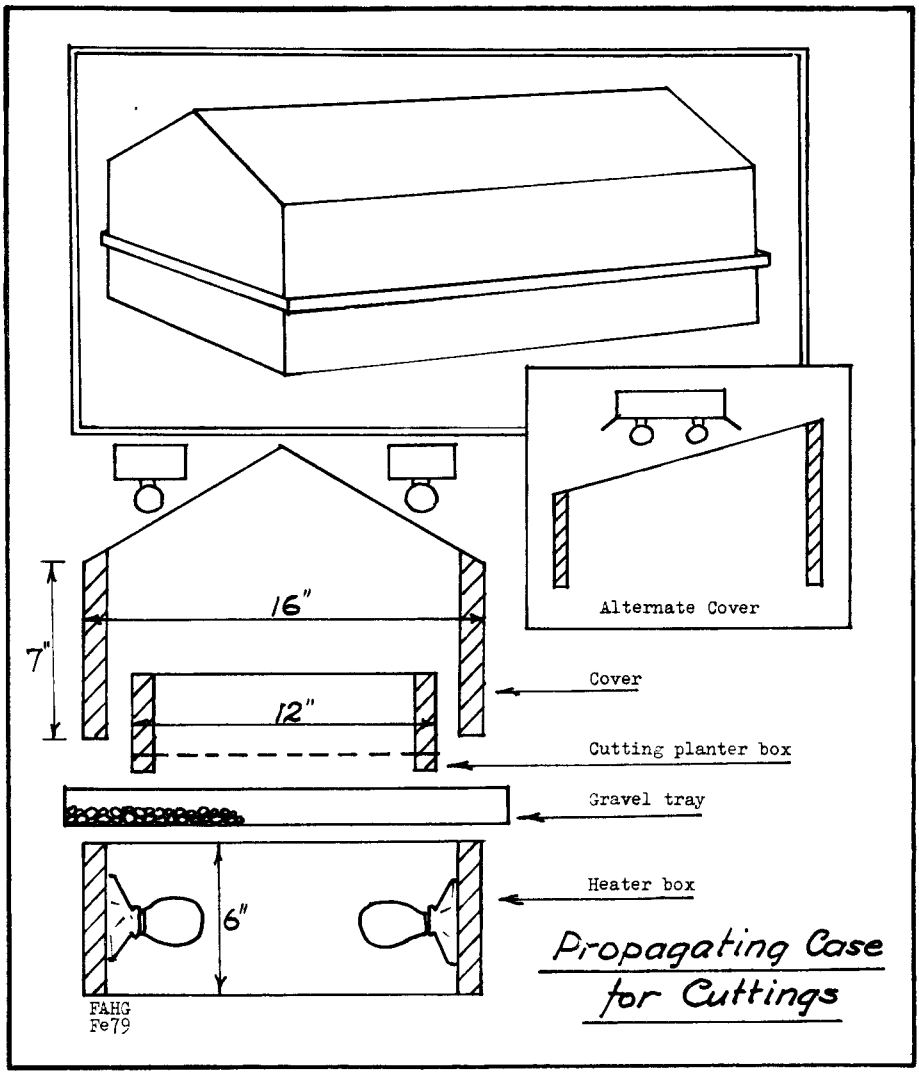
For the heater box, the planter box and the sides of the cover, ¾ " cedar is suggested, with ¼ " exterior grade plywood for the ends of the cover. All the wood should be coated with a preservative similar to Pentox.

The widths of the various units are shown, and the length will depend on the space available and whether 36" or 48" fluorescent lamps are used. Either will accommodate two planter boxes, each 16" long for a 36" case, or 22" for a 48" case. The planter boxes should be made as suggested by Bill Brandis at our 1977 Fall meeting, with a screen in the bottom to permit ready drainage.

The cover should have light-weight clear plastic sheet tacked or stapled tightly over the top. The cover is open at the bottom and rests directly on the gravel in the tray. The tray should be galvanized metal and watertight.

Two porcelain bulb receptacles should be installed in the heater box, and by experimentation the size of the bulbs will determine the amount of heat needed to keep the rooting medium at about 75°F. If the bulb receptacles are wired in series (like old-fashioned Xmas tree lights) the bulbs will receive less than full voltage and will last almost indefinitely while giving off enough heat.

A propagating case like this has produced almost 100% success with 'PJM' and 'Windbeam' rhodos, as well as deciduous azaleas, taken during 1978.



Members may be interested to know that our President, Captain R. M. "Dick" Steele will be the guest speaker at a Luncheon, Saturday, May 19 during the Annual Meeting of the American Rhododendron Society, being held in Vancouver, B.C., May 17-20/79. Dick will be presenting a history of Rhododendron Breeding in Eastern Canada.

PATTERNS OF LOW TEMPERATURE

Donald W. Oke Toronto, Ontario

Undoubtedly, the greatest concern of rhododendron growers in this part of the world is cold weather and the winter hardiness of our plants. In choosing new rhodos and azaleas, we need to match the hardiness ratings reported for prospective plants with our knowledge of the conditions of cold likely to be encountered here. Hardiness ratings are available from various sources, including some for Eastern North America developed by the American Rhododendron Society. What information do we have on climatic conditions?

Our basic guide to climate is the "Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Map" developed by the Canada Department of Agriculture, and widely reproduced. These zones were defined from data on several factors, of which temperature was the primary but not the only one. Other considerations included snow cover, wind conditions, duration of cold, and so on. Roughly, however, the zones correspond to the following minimum expected temperatures:

Zone 7a: 0°F to + 5°F
Zone 6b: - 5°F to 0°F
Zone 6a: -10°F to - 5°F
Zone 5b: -15°F to -10°F
Zone 5a: -20°F to -15°F
Zone 4b: -25°F to -20°F

If we want greater precision than is available from the Hardiness Zone Map, we have to turn to the temperature and other data provided by the Atmospheric Environment Service of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Environment. This agency is located in Toronto (mailing address: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ontario. M3H 5T4). Data are available daily, monthly and annually from this source. The observations go back many years, as far back as 1840 in the case of Downtown Toronto (University of Toronto Campus). Moreover, the data are available from a surprisingly large number of locations. There are at least 420 weather reporting stations in Ontario, including 32 within Metro Toronto alone. All of these stations report precipitation, but not all report temperature and other data.

The following three tables highlight some of the available information on low temperatures which is of relevance to the growing of rhododendrons. The first exercise was a compilation of the single lowest temperature per winter, over the eighteen winters 1960-61 to 1977-78, for eight weather stations in Eastern Canada: Windsor Airport, St. Catharines Airport, Hamilton Royal Botanical Gardens, Downtown Toronto (University of Toronto Campus), Toronto International Airport, Ottawa International Airport, Montreal International Airport, and Halifax International Airport. The results are shown in Table 1.

For each city, Table 1 shows the mean of the 18 annual low temperatures. Also shown is the lowest of the annual observations, and the highest, giving the range of variation in these temperatures. Each result is expressed twice — in terms of the Fahrenheit scale, and in terms of the equivalent Celsius formulation. At Toronto Airport, for instance, the single lowest temperature per winter, over the past 18 winters, has ranged from -24.0°F to -5.0°F, and the average has been -12.9°F (equivalent to -24.9°C).

TABLE 1
SINGLE LOWEST TEMPERATURE PER YEAR AVERAGED OVER THE PAST EIGHTEEN YEARS

	DEGREES FAHRENHEIT			DEGREES CELSIUS		
	LOW	MEAN	HIGH	LOW	MEAN	HIGH
Windsor Airport	-15.0	- 6.3	0.0	-26.1	-21.3	-17.8
St. Catharines Airport	-10.0	- 2.8	0.0	-23.3	-19.3	-17.8
Hamilton Royal Botanical Gardens	-19.0	- 8.3	- 2.0	-28.3	-22.4	-18.9
Toronto U. of T. Campus	-13.0	- 6.3	- 0.4	-25.0	-21.3	-18.0
Toronto Airport	-24.0	-12.9	- 5.0	-30.9	-24.9	-20.6
Ottawa Airport	-27.0	-20.8	-14.0	-32.8	-29.3	-25.4
Montreal Airport	-25.0	-20.3	-13.0	-31.7	-29.1	-25.0
Halifax Airport	-21.0	- 9.3	0.0	-29.4	-22.9	-17.8

Source: Canada Department of Fisheries and Environment *Canadian Weather Review* (Ottawa, monthly).

The results in Table 1 show minor discrepancies from parallel conclusions in the Hardiness Zone Maps. These latter were calculated from a longer, but earlier, period of temperature data, as well as being modified to reflect the other climatic factors. The mean low temperature for Windsor shown in Table 1 is -6.3°F, which suggests Zone 6a rather than 7a as in the Zone Map. Similarly, -2.8°F for St. Catharines here suggests Zone 6b rather than 7a; -8.3°F for Hamilton points to Zone 6a rather than 6b; -6.3°F for Downtown Toronto implies Zone 6a rather than 6b; -12.9°F for Toronto Airport would place it in Zone 5b rather than 6a; -20.8°F for Ottawa Airport is marginally into Zone 4b rather than 5a; the -20.3°F for Montreal also suggests Zone 4b rather than 5b. All of these discrepancies show the results of Table 1 to be lower than the temperatures indicated in the Zone Map. The discrepancies, except for Windsor and Montreal, are however rather small.

Table 2 attempts to look beyond the single lowest temperature per winter, to examine how frequently low temperatures are likely to occur. This is the information that is most useful in trying to judge whether you should risk purchasing a borderline plant.

TABLE 2
NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES OF TEMPERATURES IN SPECIFIED RANGES

	DEGREES FAHRENHEIT					
	+5 to +1	0 to -4	-5 to -9	-10 to -14	-15 to -19	Below -20
	DEGREES CELSIUS					
	-16 to -18	-18 to -20	-21 to -23	-23 to -26	-26 to -29	Below -29
Windsor Airport						
1976-77	12	7	3	1		
1975-76	8	5	2	0		
1974-75	1	1	0	0		
1973-74	6	2	0	0		
1972-73	2	1	0	0		
1971-72	7	2	1	1		
Average	6	3	1	0		
St. Catharines Airport						
1976-77	9	5	0			
1975-76	2	3	2			
1974-75	1	1	0			
1973-74	7	2	0			
1972-73	7	0	0			
1971-72	8	1	0			
Average	6	2	0			
Hamilton Royal Botanical Gardens						
1976-77	16	7	2	1	0	
1975-76	5	3	6	1	2	
1974-75	3	1	0	0	0	
1973-74	10	2	1	0	0	
1972-73	6	2	1	0	0	
1971-72	10	2	0	0	0	
Average	8	3	2	0	0	
Toronto U. of T. Campus						
1976-77	15	6	2	0		
1975-76	10	1	1	3		
1974-75	0	1	0	0		
1973-74	7	1	0	0		
1972-73	3	3	1	0		
1971-72	0	2	1	0		
Average	6	2	1	0		

TABLE 2 (Cont'd.)
NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES OF TEMPERATURES IN SPECIFIED RANGES

	DEGREES FAHRENHEIT					
	+5 to +1	0 to -4	-5 to -9	-10 to -14	-15 to -19	Below -20
	DEGREES CELSIUS					
	-16 to -18	-18 to -20	-21 to -23	-23 to -26	-26 to -29	Below -29
Toronto Airport						
1976-77	12	16	7	0	1	0
1975-76	10	5	7	3	1	2
1974-75	8	2	0	0	1	0
1973-74	18	11	2	0	0	0
1972-73	11	6	4	0	0	0
1971-72	18	10	3	1	0	0
Average	13	8	4	1	1	0
Ottawa Airport						
1976-77	15	16	10	7	4	0
1975-76	18	17	9	6	4	5
1974-75	9	12	7	3	1	1
1973-74	15	14	10	6	1	0
1972-73	10	9	7	8	1	2
1971-72	19	17	11	3	2	1
Average	14	14	9	6	2	1
Montreal Airport						
1976-77	17	17	5	7	2	0
1975-76	11	13	7	6	7	4
1974-75	13	9	10	2	2	0
1973-74	15	7	12	4	2	0
1972-73	6	6	8	6	3	1
1971-72	18	16	9	5	1	2
Average	13	11	8	5	3	1
Halifax Airport						
1976-77	12	7	2	0		
1975-76	10	5	5	0		
1974-75	8	8	3	2		
1973-74	9	6	2	1		
1972-73	11	5	3	2		
1971-72	21	10	5	1		
Average	12	7	3	1		

Source: Canada Department of Fisheries and Environment, *Monthly Record of Meteorological Observations* (Ottawa, monthly).

The data considered for Table 2 were daily observations throughout the five months November to March, over the six winters 1971-72 to 1976-77, for the same eight weather stations that appeared in Table 1. The exercise in this case, however, consisted of recording the frequency of occurrence of daily low temperatures in the following six intervals: +5° to +1°F, 0° to -4°F, -5° to -9°F, -10° to -14°F, -15° to -19°F, and finally -20°F and lower. The results for the eight cities and six years, along with the average frequency per year, are shown in Table 2.

The great variation in weather conditions we encounter is brought out strongly in Table 2. The winter of 1974-75, for instance, was a very mild one — Downtown Toronto had only one day throughout the winter in which the temperature went below +5°F. By contrast, the next winter 1975-76, was extremely cold — Downtown Toronto had 3 days with temperatures below -10°F.

For rhododendron growers, the critical temperatures are -5°F which defines plants rated H3, -10°F which is the survival temperature for the hardiest Obtusum azaleas, -15°F which defines H2 hardiness, and -25°F which is the limit for most of the "Ironclads." The results in Table 2 allow a person living near any of these eight weather stations to judge the probability of encountering each of these critical temperatures, and depending how much of a gambler he is, to decide whether he wants to risk a borderline plant.

Windsor, for instance, can expect one occurrence per year of a temperature in the -5° to -9°F range, although lower temperatures have occurred in two years out of six. St. Catharines does not normally have temperatures below -5°F, but it did so twice in the winter of 1975-76. Hamilton, at the RBG, can expect temperatures in the range -5° to -9°F twice a year, but lower figures do occur. Downtown Toronto normally has one observation below -5°F, but three times in 1975-76 there were readings at -10°F or lower. The Toronto Airport, by contrast, regularly has a reading in the -10°F to -14°F range, and another in the -15°F to -19°F range. Ottawa and Montreal must expect one or more temperatures at -20°F or lower every year. Halifax sees temperatures at or below -10°F almost every year.

Finally, Table 3 makes the point that there is a great variation in temperatures among various geographic areas, even ones in quite close proximity, at any given instant of time. Data for a single day were examined — January 23, 1976, which in the Toronto area was the coldest day over the entire 18 year period 1960-61 to 1977-78 (indeed, it was the coldest day since 1943). Table 3 gives the minimum temperature on that day for 30 weather stations around the "Golden Horseshoe" from Fort Erie to Orono, including nine observations within Metro Toronto. (For anyone unclear about the exact location of these weather stations, the sources mentioned include information on the latitude, longitude and altitude of each station.)

Table 3 shows that the day the Toronto International Airport recorded -24°F, the University of Toronto Campus had -13°F. Indeed, a ten degree Fahrenheit spread seems to be standard for the minimum winter temperatures between these two stations. The same day Grimsby recorded a balmy -5°F, and Bradford near the Holland Marsh got down to -31°F.

What you can grow, really does depend on where you live.

TABLE 3

RANGE OF LOW TEMPERATURES ON JANUARY 23, 1976 AMONG 30 LOCATIONS BY EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO

	F°		F°
Fort Erie	-13	Bradford	-31
Welland	-17	Oak Ridges	-24
Niagara Falls	-11	Stouffville	-25
St. Catharines Airport	- 8	Richmond Hill	-24
St. Catharines Power Glen	-13	Toronto Int. Airport	-24
Vineland Station	- 6	Toronto Downsview Airport	-19
Grimsby	- 5	Toronto Etobicoke South	-15
Brantford	-18	Toronto Dufferin-St. Clair	-16
Kitchener	-15	Toronto U. of T. Campus	-13
Hamilton Airport	-16	Toronto Finch-Victoria Park	-21
Hamilton R. B. G.	-19	Toronto Ellesmere	-19
Burlington	-21	Toronto Malvern	-21
Oakville	-22	Toronto Scarborough College	-23
Milton - Kelso	-27	Oshawa	-18
Brampton	-22	Orono	-26

Source: Canada Department of Fisheries and Environment, *Monthly Record of Meteorological Observations* (Ottawa, January 1976).

PREPARING AND SHOWING CUT BLOOM

R. A. Fleming Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, Ontario

The flower shows come and go and after each one someone is sure to say words to the effect that if they had only known, bloom in their own garden was just as good — or better — than any on display. Convincing this type of person that exhibiting is not an impossible dream is often a difficult task. For those in the "if I had only known" category, the following brief notes on how to exhibit are given.

Step one in exhibiting begins with healthy, disease and insect free plants. Proper nutrition, a well drained moderately acid, organic soil, adequate moisture during the growing season and timely pesticide sprays will produce healthy vigorous plants.

Steps two, three and four lead to the show table and begin with selection of a representative bloom or truss of the species or cultivar to be exhibited. Select for

uniformity of size and form where several blooms are to be displayed together, rather than selecting the largest unless all those selected can be above average size. Where one truss or spray is to be exhibited, select several, narrow your choice to two or three and cut them all. There is usually a class where the "extras" can be exhibited. Cutting bloom should be done with a sharp knife or pruners. Allow enough stem to properly support the bloom. Immediately plunge the cut stem in cold water and as soon as possible place the flower stem in a cool shaded area while cutting continues.

Often, bloom must be cut some time in advance of exhibiting in order to have that particular cultivar in bloom for the flower show. Most flowers will hold well at temperatures between 4° and 10°C (40-50°F). Bloom just at maturity of form will hold well, unopened buds will develop slowly, but tight buds may fail to open for exhibit. Usually the life of mature bloom is short once exposed to normal temperatures and should be kept refrigerated until immediately before show time.

After cutting and while in storage, change the water daily. A fresh cut from the base of the stem helps to keep conducting tissue free of algae and other organisms which might interfere with water uptake.

Transportation to the show can ruin even the best exhibits. Be sure blooms are firmly placed in good solid containers and spaced so that no physical damage to the florets can take place during the trip to the show. Wedge the containers to prevent tipping on tight curves or during sudden stops. Avoid strong winds from open windows or the lethal heat of closed cars on a warm sunny day.

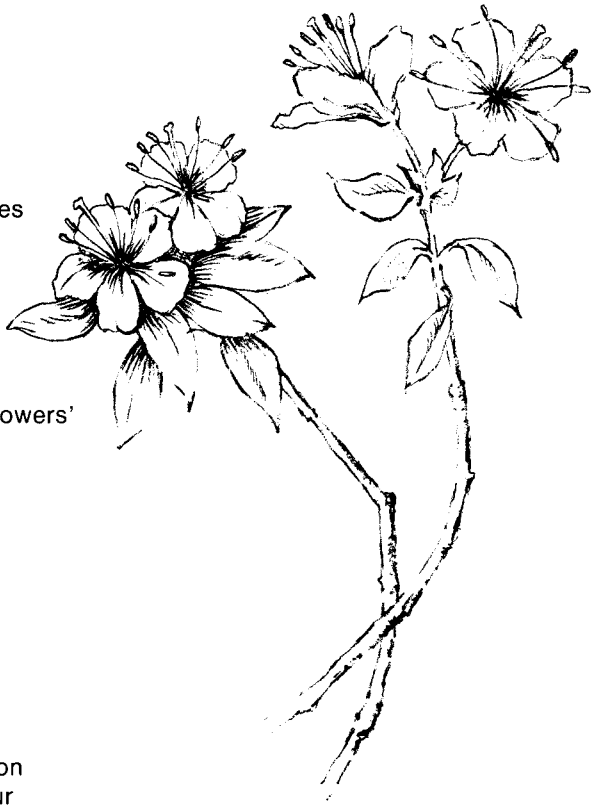
Move your exhibits into the exhibit hall quickly, check water levels in containers and then place your blooms on the show table. Take some time to dress your exhibit — wipe dust from the leaves, remove damaged foliage — even poor bloom if necessary, and once again, check container for water

Above all don't be afraid to exhibit. The first time is the hardest. After that you'll wonder why you didn't do it long ago!

* For additional information on preserving flowers, read "Preserving of Flowers for the Flower Show" by R. Behring, from the Rhododendron Society of Canada, Bulletin 1976 Vol. 5-No. 1

Editor's Note: "Consideration for Rhododendron Shows and Judging of Exhibits" by Capt. R.M. Steele (RSC Bulletin 1977 Vol. 6 No. 2) outlines judging criteria and provides further guidance on choosing trusses for display.

ARCTIC RHODODENDRONS
Alfred Purdy



They are small purple surprises
in the river's white racket
and after you've seen them
a number of times
in water-places
where their silence seems
related to river-thunder
you think of them as 'noisy flowers'
Years ago
it may have been
that lovers came this way
stopped in the outdoor hotel
to watch the water floorshow
and lying prone together
where the purged green
boils to a white heart
and the shore trembles
like a stone song
with bodies touching
flowers were their conversation
and love the sound of a colour
that lasts two weeks in August
and then dies
except for the three or four
I pressed in a letter
and sent whispering to you

Arctic Rhododendrons - from "Being Alive" Poems; 1958-78 by Al Purdy. Reprinted by permission of the Canadian Publishers, McClelland & Stewart Ltd. Toronto

OUR COVER PICTURE

P. J. M. *(Mezitt)* Many flowers form compact, rounded trusses of bright rosy purple on this well known lepidote hybrid. The prolific early May bloom is a welcome sight after the long winter.

A cross between two very hardy species *(R. carolinianum* x *R. dauricum),* it is proving to be perhaps the hardiest hybrid ever! Several clones are available. When planted in small groups the very slight colour mix of the bloom is most attractive. In Fall the various forms show autumn leaf colour of yellow and orange red, while the current year's foliage becomes a rich dark copper shade, holding over winter and becoming green again in spring. This truss was exhibited at the RSC Annual Flower Show, Vineland 1978. *Photo: T. J. Cole*

THIS JUNE IN NOVA SCOTIA

Capt. R. M. Steele Rose Bay, Nova Scotia

The 8th Annual Meeting and Rhododendron Show will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on the weekend of 15-17 of June, one week later than previously announced in the Bulletin.

The Rhododendron Show and the Annual Dinner will be on Saturday in Halifax. On Sunday the Society will travel to Kentville for a tour of the very excellent Rhododendron collection at the Agricultural Research Station. The Annual Meeting will be held there.

Those members who drive to Nova Scotia by way of the Bluenose Ferry from Bar Harbour, Maine to Yarmouth can see the rhododendrons at Reef Gardens in Bar Harbour. In Yarmouth there is a very large number of rhododendrons. The oldest collection there was at "Rock Cottage", where Captain and Mrs. Montgomery had a large number of these plants around their garden. Recently an apartment building has been placed where those rhododendrons stood. Although many of this group were destroyed, there are still forty-four very large plants remaining.

The drive from Yarmouth to Halifax is about the same distance whether you take the north or south route. The route along the south shore of Nova Scotia takes you to the famous old towns of Shelbourne, Liverpool, Bridgewater, Lunenburg and Chester.

For those members who come by way of the Saint John-Digby ferry, there is a collection of rhododendrons and azaleas at "The Pines" Hotel, within a hundred feet of the highway just after you leave the ferry landing.

Information on the Nova Scotia meeting can be obtained from Aileen Meagher, 1461 Seymour Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3M6.

REGIONAL NOTES

Atlantic Region John K. Weagle

The Fall meeting of the RSC Atlantic Region took place October 15, 1978 at the N.S Museum in Halifax. About 22 members were in attendance; our secretary, Aileen Meagher was off on a trip to India where she loaded her suitcases with cuttings of everything!

Capt. Dick Steele started the meeting off with an informative lecture on propagation. He stressed the importance of a rooting medium with the correct air/moisture ratio, a humid environment for the cuttings, bottom heat, a captan-benlate-sevin dip, wounding + .8-1.0% IBA and captan. Dr. Craig followed with a slide show on the succession of bloom at Kentville, starting with *R. mucronulatum* and 'Pioneer' in early May and concluding with *R. bakeri* and *R. cumberlandense* in early August.

Next Capt. Steele presented slides of tropical rhodos in his collection....'Fragrantissimum', *R. supranubium,* 'Ethereal Equinox'; a section on winterkill at his

nursery caused by a mild winter (usually the worst kind); and concluded with a preview of some of his latest compact yellow hybrids, *R. chrysanthum* x'Prelude' being a knock-out!

Seed distribution and door prizes followed and a question and answer period with George Swain, Don Craig and Dick Steele ended the meeting.

Niagara Peninsula Region Wilf Ferguson

As winter slowly yields to spring, to rhododendron buffs this is the most exciting time of the year. Up to now we have enjoyed a pretty mild winter in the Niagara Peninsula; I hope it continues. Most of the rhodos in my small garden look very good with lots of buds.

A programme of three dates for our spring meetings was presented to me by our Vice President, A. W. Smith, acting on behalf of our President Lyall Fretz who, at this time, is vacationing in Florida. These meetings will all be held at the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station. Information on these events is listed below.

General Meeting March 29/79
Agenda President's address and a welcome to our new members. There will be a panel discussion on rhododendrons, their pros and cons, after which Al Smith will present a slide show which our new members, I am sure, will enjoy immensely.

Plant Auction April 26/79
Members are urged to bring all kinds of plant material to this auction so we can sustain our various projects for the future. At this auction we shall offer for sale the surplus plants from the Van Veen order, which incidentally are not too many!

Annual Meeting and Flower Show May 26/79
Highlight will be a tour of the gardens at H.R.I.O. Vineland Station. This date is also "Rhododendron Day" at the Research Station so I urge all members to attend the Flower Show and enjoy the beautiful surroundings which are so prevalent at this time of the year. More information regarding this event will be in our annual news letter which will be available in March of each year.

On the subject of membership dues I am pleased to report that up to this date (Jan. 26) approximately 80% have paid their dues and have been placed on the mailing list for the spring newsletter. I have sent a final reminder to all delinquent members and I hope I will be hearing from them in the near future.

Toronto Region Cristina Oke

The Winter Meeting of the Toronto Region, held on February 17, 1979 at the Civic Garden Centre, was well attended, with a high turn out of new members.

The new By-Laws for the Region were discussed at length, with several amendments being proposed. A vote was taken, and the By-Laws, as amended, were accepted by a majority of the members. It was then referred back to the By-Laws Committee for finalization.

The Nominating Committee was introduced and members were reminded of the Executive election which will be held at the Fall meeting.

Dorothea Lovat Dickson then gave a slide presentation of basic cultural instructions for rhododendrons and azaleas. Included in the presentation was information on soil testing, soil preparation and winter protection.

Don Oke discussed the proposed group order of new North American hybrids. He gave background information on Gable, Dexter, Nearing and Shammarello, the hybridizers whose plants are the focus of the order, and showed slides of many of the plants being considered.

Dr. David Cowman had brought with him from Oshawa an azalea and a camellia, both in full bloom, which were much admired.

Concluding the meeting were a lucky draw for several books, then slides showing displays of rhodos and azaleas in bloom in England, Scotland, and in a beautiful garden in Midland, Ontario — that of Edmund Egelkraut. His spectacular slides of six foot high azaleas were a pleasant reminder of the beauty which awaits us once winter finally ends.

NEW MEMBERS

Barry, Dr. & Mrs. Michael
2406 Arbordale Drive
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2M6

Beattie, Mrs. J. R.
Southdene Farm
Mountain, Ontario K0E 1S0

Bruce, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.
21 Aragon Avenue
Agincourt, Ontario

Dainton, Roger V.
80 Satchell Blvd.
West Hill, Ontario M1C 3B4

Inglis, Rodger E.
25 Chilton Place
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3G6

Jackson, Mrs. S. A.
165 Gloucester Avenue
Oakville, Ontario L6J 3W3

Jarvie, Mrs. D. M.
37 Thornheights Drive
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 3L9

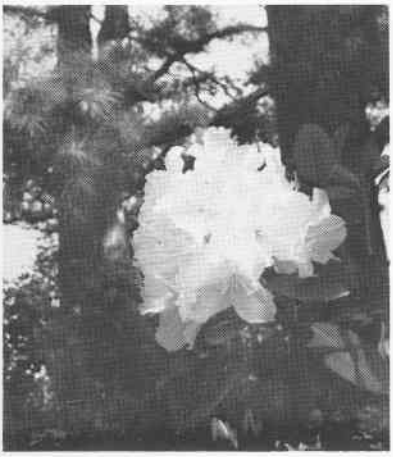
Koabel, Linda
94 Merritt Parkway
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3Y1

Nelson, Allan
40 Gorman Park Road
Downsview, Ontario M3H 3K4

Troup, Mrs. Barbara
R.R. 1, Box 34
Jordan Station, Ontario L0R 1S0

Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. A. H.
56 Strathburn Blvd.
Weston, Ontario M9M 2K6

Canadian Grown Rhododendrons



We offer for sale the largest variety of hardy rhododendrons and azaleas produced in Eastern Canada.

Our research work goes back thirty-five years. Some of our first plantings are now a healthy seven feet in height and spread.

Our annual production of young plants is from cuttings taken from plants that have already proven their worth in our Woodland Trial Grounds.

Connoisseurs

New and rare varieties are difficult to obtain. Write to us about them. We may be able to secure them for you.

In addition we produce a wide assortment of trees, shrubs, evergreens and herbaceous plants.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

WOODLAND NURSERIES

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Mississauga, Ontario, Canada