

Small Shrubs (2—5')  
Deciduous & Evergreen

Map #69, 70

*Rhododendrons & Azaleas*  
(*Rhododendron* spp.)  
Family: *Ericaceae*



'White Lights' Azalea  
Northern Lights Series



'P.J.M.' Rhododendron



'PJM' flower truss



**Miscellaneous:** Rhododendrons are commonly divided into two general groups: 1. Azaleas, which are mainly deciduous with funnel-shaped flowers contained 5 stamens 2. Rhododendrons, which are mainly evergreen with bell-shaped flowers containing 10 or more stamens.

**Leaves:** Varies.

**Buds:** vegetative and flower buds. Flower buds much larger and formed during summer for the following year.

**Stems:** Varies

**Bark:** Varies

**Flowers:** Borne in trusses of many flowers. Huge range of colors with contrasting throats and speckles, inner and outer petals, etc.

**Fruits:** Not common.

**Habit:** Rhododendrons in bloom are among the most striking and beautiful of all plants.

**Culture:** They are fastidious about their cultural requirements: Require well-drained acid soil high in organic matter. Planting hole should be much larger than the rootball and backfill soil amended 50% with peat. Yearly applications of elemental sulfur to lower pH. Siting: Deciduous azaleas do best in full sun or partial shade; Evergreen rhododendrons do best in shaded sites protected from winter sun and wind.

**Cultivars:** Literally hundreds of species and cultivars. The best for northern climates are: The Northern Lights series of deciduous azaleas were developed in Minn. They are flowerbud hardy to minus 40 degrees. Available in many colors.

'PJM' Rhododendron is evergreen with small oval leaves which are a glossy green in summer and turn purplish bronze in the winter. They curl into narrow cylinders in cold winter weather and flatten out again when warms. Flowers are a magenta purple some find offensive. Flower in very early spring. Also 'Olga', 'Aglo', and 'Laurie'.

**Related species:** Others hardy in WI if properly sited: Azaleas—*R. mucronatum* 'Cornell Pink' ; *R. x 'Gibraltar'* (orange); *R. x 'Jane Abott'* (deep pink); *R. prinophyllum*, Roseshell A. (pale pink); *R. schlippenbachii*—Royal A.; *R. x 'Toucan'* (whitez); Rhododendrons—*R. dauricum* 'Madison Snow' (semi-evergreen); *R. x 'Anna H. Hall'* (white flowers, silver fuzz on



Northern Lights Series Azaleas



P.J.M. Rhododendron



'Gibraltar' Azalea  
Exbury Hybrid



'Madison Snow' Rhododendron

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