

AtlanticRhodo

www.AtlanticRhodo.org

Volume 26: Number 1

February 2002



Rhododendron Society of Canada - Atlantic Region

Positions of Responsibility 2002 - 2003

President	Sheila Stevenson	479-3740	Newsletter/ Website	Tom Waters	429-3912
Vice-President	Anitra Laycock	852-2502	Library	Shirley McIntyre	835-3673
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Membership	Betty MacDonald	852-2779	May Mini -Show	Jenny Sandison	624-9013
Past President	Ken Shannik	422-2413	May - Advance Plant Sale	Ken Shannik	422-2413
Director - Program	Jenny Sandison	624-9013	May- Public Plant Sale	Duff & Donna Evers	835-2586
Director - Communications	Christine Curry	656-2513	Flower Show	Gwen Romanes	425-6323
Director	Sandy Brown	683-2615			



Membership

ARS/RSC District 12 (National) Membership fees for 2002 were due on December 1 and 'Local' membership fees were due on January 1. If you have not renewed your membership please do so now. If you are not sure if you have renewed, please contact **Betty MacDonald** our **Membership Secretary**, (902) 852-2779. The current dues structures are as follows:

1. **R.S.C. - A.R.S. Membership** (which includes Atlantic membership) \$42.00 Canadian for individual membership. Please make your cheque payable to - "Rhododendron Society of Canada" and send to **National Treasurer, Mr. Robert Dickhout, R.S.C. District 12 A.R.S., 5200 Timothy Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 5G3. Be sure to specify Atlantic Region.**

2. **Atlantic Society only** (which includes all privileges, mailings and activities of R.S.C. Atlantic only) \$15.00 for individual or family membership. Please make your cheque payable to "R.S.C. Atlantic Region" and send to **Atlantic Membership Secretary, Betty MacDonald, 534 Prospect Bay Road, Prospect Bay, Nova Scotia, B3T1Z8.**

When renewing your membership please include your telephone number. This will be used for RSCAR purposes only (co-ordination of potluck suppers and other events) and will be kept strictly confidential. Thanks!

AtlanticRhodo is the Newsletter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada - Atlantic Region. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

Published three times a year. October, February and May

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Cover Photo:

Rhododendron 'John T. Meagher' a seedling grown by John Meagher from RSCAR seed (87/070). [Photo John Weagle]



Calendar of Events

All R.S.C.A.R. meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nova Scotia Museum Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Parking is available in the Museum lot. Friends, guests and anyone interested in rhododendrons, azaleas or companion plants are always welcome at R.S.C.A.R. meetings or events.

- 2 January** **Meeting:** John Weagle and Jamie Ellison: "New Magnolias Far and Wide". A look at many of the loveliest hybrids in this magnificent group of plants. Workshop: Jenny Sandison: Tips on photographing your garden.
- 5 February** **Meeting:** Tracy Mackenzie: "Tree Selection, Establishment and Formative Care". A talk by one of the NSAC instructors, who is himself an arborist, about this neglected aspect of our gardens. Workshop: Slides of plants available at May Sale.
- 5 March** **Meeting:** Mary-Jane O'Halloran, Chair: "Sustainable Gardening". We plan an informal Forum for discussion of the new Metro bylaw pertaining to pesticides. Workshop: Panel Q & A. Please submit your questions in advance.
- 12 March** **Special Lecture:** Finn Haigli: "Alpines". Finn, from Tronso, in northernmost Norway, grows all those wonderful plants such as Himalayan blue poppies and Asiatic primulas. Please note this is a Special Lecture, on a Tuesday evening, and will take place at 6:45 p.m. in the new Kechan Goodman Public Library at 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax (next to Home Depot in Halifax Industrial Park).
- 2 April** **Meeting:** Michael Otis: "Woodlanders". Michael works at the Montreal Botanical Gardens and is an authority on these plants. Workshop: Ken Shannik: How to make a mist chamber.
- 13 April** **Spring Workshop:** A full Saturday's events are planned at Kingstech College in Kentville. Put this in your diary. Details will follow later. If anyone has any ideas or requests for workshops/presentations or names of resource people, please email them to Stephen Archibald: stevenson.archibald@sympatico.ca
- 7 May** **Meeting:** John Weagle: "Planting and Maintenance of Rhododendrons". This will be a practical demonstration in the Museum Garden. Hope the weather cooperates!



A very warm welcome to our new and returning R.S.C. Atlantic Region members who have joined since the October 2001 Newsletter:

Lillian Crump
Patricia and Ron Hiltz
Kate Jarrett
Susan Mahtab
Emily and Dawson Miller
Pierre Nobert
Joyce Smith
Anita Sulley

Tantallon NS
Hammonds Plains NS
Dartmouth NS
Halifax NS
Lower Sackville NS
Church Point NS
Halifax NS
Hammonds Plains NS

Atlantic Notes

Membership Dues

2001 membership fees for both categories are now past due. **If you have not renewed your membership please do so now, this is your final notice.** Members whose dues are not current will find a renewal notice enclosed with this Newsletter. ☐

RSCAR 2002 Tissue Culture Advance Sale

The plants will be available for pickup at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. Pickup time will be between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm on Saturday, 6 April 2002. Your order will be available when you arrive. You will be able to purchase any leftover plants at that time. Volunteers will be needed to help sort plants that day, 12 noon - 2 pm. Contact Audrey Fralic at (902) 683-2711, or at the March Meeting.

Member's Plant Sale

**During Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, 7 May 2002**

Members are encouraged to bring plant material to sell at the regular monthly meeting in May. Plants should be rare, unusual or hard to find varieties of perennials, annuals, shrubs, etc. that are not readily available commercially. Rhododendron, either species and hybrids (seed grown or rooted cuttings) are especially encouraged. Members are required to price and sell their plants themselves. This is a great way to find homes for those surplus plants while recouping some of your expenses for pots and soil. Please participate, especially as a vendor!

Vendors are encouraged, but not required, to provide information about their plants. You may have great plants but if the members don't know them and they don't look particularly spectacular at sale time, they are not apt to sell. ☐

The Muntz Collection

Our Society has been given a bequest of large specimen rhododendrons through the generosity of Anne Muntz and her late husband, Alex Muntz. Bob Pettipas and John Weagle were asked to take the large specimen plants growing in Clementsport, Nova Scotia. It was thought, however, that a more fitting tribute to Alex would be several plantings around the Province in civic parks and gardens where the public could enjoy the beauty of these hybrid and species rhododendrons. Our primary concern is to locate parks, gardens and public area that can provide suitable growing conditions, expert care and a watering schedule that the plants require to flourish long term. We do not want these plants to be planted and forgotten. Presently we are looking at a section of the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, Pine Grove Park in Liverpool and a civic planting in the town of Yarmouth. In March and April we will require volunteers to meet at Clementsport to help with the moving of these very large plants. Bowater-Mersey has offered to supply a truck to move the Pine Grove plants to Liverpool. Jamie Ellison of Bunchberry Nursery in Clementsport will arrange to outfit his new Kabota tractor with tines to facilitate moving the big plants the same way the big *R. maximum* was recently moved (See "Maximum Move" at www.AtlanticRhodo.org - Ed.). A few very large and tender plants such as a 4 meter Mrs. W. R. Coe, and several large tender Dexter's may be moved to a park in Yarmouth. A 2.5 meter x 3 meter Jock will go to a private sheltered garden near Yarmouth as it may not be at its best in an open park situation. A 4 meter Spellbinder, a group of 3 meter Gable evergreen azaleas and a collection of *R. carolinianum*s are to be moved, hopefully, to ARHG.

If you have any thoughts on possible sites that **can assure** the long term vigour of these plants please contact John Weagle at Taliensia@aol.com or Bob Pettipas at rpettipas@mtt.ca as soon as possible. ☐

Special Notices

2002 May Plant Sale

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History - Auditorium - Lower Level
1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Sunday, 19 May - 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This Sale is one of our major fund-raisers and it relies heavily on donations from our members. In addition to the nursery stock we bring in, we hope to have a good selection of tree and shrub seedlings and rooted cuttings, perennials, annuals, etc., donated by you. Please keep the Sale in mind this spring when you are seed sowing, transplanting and dividing. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Members are requested to drop off any donations between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Donors and sale volunteers will be able to select two plants prior to the Sale opening. This will not include nursery grown stock. Plants must be selected, paid for, and taken to your vehicle a minimum of one hour prior to the sale opening. This rule will be strictly enforced! No exceptions!

Plan to attend and bring your friends. This event is always popular and the line-up to get in is usually long. For the best selection we recommend that you plan to arrive earlier than the 1:30 p.m. opening time.

Members whose dues are current can pre-order plants from the nursery grown rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants we are bringing in for the sale. Please see the 2002 Advance May Sale article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

For more information contact, Duff & Donna Evers at (902) 835-2586 or devers1@attcanada.ca

2002 Spring Mini-Show

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History - Main Level
1747 Summer Street, Halifax

Saturday, 18 May - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 19 May - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The May Mini-Show is a non-competitive exhibition of rhododendrons, azaleas and any other early-spring blooming plants. It is held annually in conjunction with our May Sale. Thanks to the generosity of our members who bring in plant material, and especially the show chair, Jenny Sandison, the display is always spectacular. This show is an important opportunity to educate the general public and always draws many inquisitive visitors.

Volunteers are needed to help supervise the display. You need not be an expert. If you have not already volunteered and can assist either with your time or by lending plant material, please contact Jenny Sandison at (902) 624-9013.

Rhododendron Workshop

Bill Wilgenhof and Sharon Bryson invite you to join them and others from their local garden club for an informal, hands-on, afternoon event that will focus on site choice, soil preparation (and digging in the manure pile), planting, mulching, pruning, etc., of rhododendrons. Sharon says: "Don't think there will be any registration fee. We usually have a BBQ-PotLuck, with everyone bringing whatever they want to grill and some other contribution for supper. Everyone will no doubt get to take a specimen home to "practice". The likely date is Saturday, 15 June 2002. More details as the time approaches".

Sharon also adds: "Members of the Rhodie Society would be welcome to come anytime during the "season". We have a large contingent of seedlings on the go this year...well over 1,600 I think". Contact her at: sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

May 2002 Advance Plant Sale For Members

Members may pre-order plants from the nursery grown stock to be brought in for the May Plant Sale. This year's list features a tremendous selection of rhododendrons and azaleas - some new, some old, many hard to find. In the companions section you will find many unusual and rare shrubs, trees and perennials.

Many of the rhododendrons are in 2 gallon pots this year. We are utilizing a new supplier this year to augment our selection with many exciting new varieties. They are marginally more expensive than the 1 gallon plants. We are also offering many excellent rhododendrons as year old rooted cuttings. They are shipped to us un-potted and heeled in bark mulch in suitably sized pots. These should be planted out as soon as weather permits. The plant size will vary with these dependent on the vigour of the cultivar.

Quantities of some items are small and others we may not receive at all. You may list substitutes for specific plants on the order form. (i.e. You are ordering plant #1, and if it is not available, you would like to receive plant #3 - enter the number '3' in the 'sub' column beside plant #1.)

You may order more than one plant per variety. However, plants will be allocated in the order in which they are received on the basis of one plant per variety per membership. Following this allocation, an adequate reserve will be held back for the public sale in May. Any surplus will be divided up amongst multiple orders. Some items listed have been offered to members in the past few years and will only be available at the public sale in May. These are indicated as 'May Sale Only' and cannot be preordered. Please complete the enclosed order form and return it no later than 31 March 2002.

Plants are to be picked up at 12 Central Street, Bedford, NS on Saturday, 27 April 2002 between 10:00 am and 2:00 p.m. (The driveway is around the corner on Gordon Street.) Plants are to be paid for when they are picked up. Do not send payment with your order form. Plants will not be shipped. Any plants not picked up will be offered for sale at the public May Plant Sale.

Return your order form to: **Ken Shannik, 1421 Edward Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H3H5**

Lepidote Rhododendrons

R. 'Angel Powder' - (*carolinianum* 'Epoch' x white *mucronulatum*) Large trusses of wavy edged, dainty white flowers subtly flushed pink. Upright-growing, dense habit - low to medium in height. Vigorous & floriferous. A Delp hybrid. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Bluenose' - (*augustinii* hybrid x *dauricum* Sempervirens Group) Large 2", funnel-shaped, light violet-blue flowers in lax trusses of 3-5. Upright, open habit to 4'(1.2m) high x 3'(9m) wide in 10 years. Narrow olive green foliage. A Brueckner hybrid bred in New Brunswick. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Blue Ridge' - ('Russautinii' x *augustinii*) Small trusses of iridescent, lavender-blue flowers. Faintly fragrant and floriferous. Well-rounded, compact habit to 4'(1.2m) high. Hardy to -12°F(-24°C). **(2 gal - \$20.00)**

R. *campylogynum* Myrtilloides Group - A dwarf species with small, dark green glossy leaves and nodding bell-shaped flowers on long pedicels. Plants in this group are very low growing, have rosy-purple to dark purple flowers and tiny leaves. To 1'(.3m) high with a tightly branched habit. Hardy to -5°F(-20°C). Only for the mildest gardens with protection or can be grown in a pot and overwintered in a coldframe. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

R. 'Cream Crest' - (*rupicola* v. *chryseum* x 'Cilipinense') Tight trusses of bright creamy yellow, 1" wide, cup-shaped, flowers. Very early blooming. Glossy, deep green leaves. Dense, compact, upright habit to 4'(1.2m) high. Vigorous. Zone 6b in a protected spot. **(1 gal. - \$15.00)**

R. 'Pink Pixie' - (*carolinianum* 'Epoch' x 'Mini Mode') Clear pink blooms in trusses which are large for a lepidote. A beautiful new tetraploid hybrid from Jack Looye in Southern Ontario. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Tetra Purple' - [(Delp's tetraploid *carolinianum* x *fastigiatum*) x (Delp's tetraploid *carolinianum* x 'Blue Diamond')] Deep purple flowers. Very floriferous. Another Looye hybrid. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). **(2 gal. - \$20.00)**

R. 'Too Bee' - (*campylogynum* 'Patricia' x *keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy') Frilly, rosy-pink, bell-shaped flowers. Compact, dwarf, spreading-mounded habit with dense foliage. To 1'(.3m) high x 2'(.6m) wide in 10 yrs. A Berg hybrid hardy to -10°F (-23°C) **(1 Year - \$12.00)**

Elepidote Rhododendrons

R. 'Babylon' - (*calophytum* x *praevernium*) Huge satiny white flowers flushed pale pink on the reverse and a dark red blotch make this hybrid a knockout. Very early blooming. Large lustrous green leaves with red petioles. Dense, mounded habit. To 5'(1.5m) high in 10 years - much taller with age. Plant in a protected spot. Hardy to -10°F(-23°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Ben Mosely' - (*fortunei* x unknown) Light purple-pink flowers with frilled darker edges & a red flair born in tight round trusses. Dark glossy leaves. Compact mounding habit. Vigorous. To 5'(1.5m) high in 10 yrs. A Dexter hybrid. Hardy to least -15°F(-26°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Bravo' - {'Catalga' x [*fortunei* x (*arboreum* x *griffithianum*)]} Light purplish-pink flowers shading lighter in center in large long-lasting trusses. Upright, open habit. Very vigorous. To 10'(3m) high in 10 years. A Leach hybrid hardy to at least -15°F(-26°C). A dynamite plant for the larger garden - to quote Greer - "You'll say Bravo." Don't miss out.
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. *bureavioides* - A striking species in the Taliensia subsection. Ours may actually turn out to be a *R. bureavii* hybrid which masqueraded (and probably still does) as the species prior to 1986. In either case the plants will have leaves and flowers larger than *R. bureavii*. White flowers with pink streaking. Pointed matte green leaves with rusty-red indumentum and tomentum. Dense, shapely habit to 4'(1.2m) high or more. A superb foliage plant. Zone 6, possibly colder.
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Casanova' - ('Newburyport Belle' x 'Good Hope') Yellow, pink and orange flowers giving an amber-pink effect. Floriferous & long-lasting. Lustrous green foliage. Well-branched, spreading, mounding habit to 4'(1.2m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in 10 years. A Leach hybrid. Zone 5.
(1 gal. - \$15.00 - May Sale Only)

R. 'Finlandia' - ['Catalga' x ('Adrian Koster' x *williamsianum*)] Pink buds open pearlescent white in trusses. Striking dark green leaves are heart-shaped with an unusual pronounced hooked downturn. Medium-tall. Well-branched, fairly dense habit. To 3'(0.9m) high in 10 years. A Leach hybrid. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Goldfort' - ('Goldsworth Yellow' x *fortunei*) Pink buds open pale yellow with a greenish-yellow centre. Floriferous & fragrant. Grows into a large open plant with a rounded habit. To 8'(2.4m) high & wide in many years. A proven performer in Halifax and a Best in Show winner. One of my favourites & hard to find. Zone 6.
(1 Yr. - \$12.00)

R. 'Haaga' - (*brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x 'Dr. HC Dresselhuys') Dark pink buds open to medium pink flowers. Rich glossy green foliage. Well-branched, rounded, upright

habit to 7'(2.1m) high. An extremely hardy hybrid from Finland. Hardy to -33°F(-36°C).

(1 gal. - \$15.00 - May Sale Only)

R. 'Harold Amateis' - (*maximum* x *strigillosum*) Smashing large cardinal red flowers in large trusses of 20. Early blooming. Long, narrow, medium green leaves. Grows to 5'(1.5m) tall in 10 years. Broader than tall. Bud hardy to -10°F(-23°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. ('Mrs. J.G. Millais' x 'LaBar's White') - White flowers with a green turning yellow blotch in conical trusses. Compact habit. A Fetterhof hybrid. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(2 gal - \$12.00 - A Few Only)

R. 'My Sin' - A Leach/Trautman hybrid with peach-coloured flowers. Seed parent of 'Capistrano'. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). The plants we will be receiving have shaky roots and are recommended for experienced growers only.
(2 gal. - \$20.00 - A Few Only)

R. 'Our Friend' - ('Scintillation' O.P.) Large pink flowers with an orange throat in round trusses. Low to medium in height. Named as a tribute to the Ontario hybridizer, Al Smith. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Parker's Pink' - Stunning large pink flowers with a pale centre and red spotting in full trusses. Fragrant & floriferous. Large deep green leaves with heavy texture. To 5'(1.5m) high in 10 years and broader than tall. A must-have Dexter hybrid. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Percy Wiseman' - Multi-coloured, funnel-shaped flowers - peach-pink and cream, fading to creamy-white with a yellow throat - in rounded trusses. Very floriferous. Lush glossy dark green foliage. Low, dense, mounded habit. To 3'(0.9m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide in 10 years. This is the plant that Kenneth Cox thinks we should all be hybridizing with here in the Maritimes. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C). Parentage likely not as published.
(1gal. - \$15.00)

R. 'Peter Tigerstedt' - (*brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* x 'Catalga') Sparkling white flowers with heavy purple speckling/blotch. Late blooming. Long lustrous dark green leaves. Upright, open spreading habit. To 6'(1.8m) high x 8'(2.4m) wide. An extremely hardy Finnish hybrid to -33°F(-36°C).
(1 gal. - \$15.00 - May Sale Only)

R. 'Phyllis Korn' - ('Diana' x 'Gomer Waterer') Very large, flat-faced flowers with incredible substance in large 10" trusses. They open cream with a hint of yellow and a small red blotch and age to pale yellow with a greenish-yellow blotch. Foliage is very thick, deep green and glossy. Compact, upright well-branched habit. To 5'(1.5m) high and wide in 10 years. Zone 6 in a protected spot.
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Pride of Dorchester' - [(*smirnowii* x 'Lady Bessborough') x *yakushmanum*] White flowers with a dark red blotch on a compact plant. Heavily indumented foliage. An Al Smith hybrid from Ontario. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Ring's Monarch' - ('Newburyport Belle' x 'Graf Zeplin') Beautiful, large, fragrant, pink blooms on a plant with good foliage. A Tom Ring hybrid. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. ('Sham's Ruby' x *williamsianum*) - An early blooming hybrid with rose pink flowers. Dark green foliage resembles *williamsianum*. Maroon-coloured new growth. A sister seedling of 'Vinewood.' Bred at Vineland Station. Zone 6.
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. 'Summer Snow' - [*maximum* x (*ungernii* x *auriculatum*)] Very large, 4 " wide, sparkling white flowers with small yellow-green blotch in loose dome shaped trusses. Fragrant. Large, 9" long leaves on a large upright plant. Vigorous. To 6'(1.8m) tall in 10 years but will become tree-like. A July blooming Leach hybrid! Hardy to -15°F (-26°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. 'Teddy Bear' - (*bureavii* x *yakushmanum*) A exceptional hybrid for foliage. Beautiful, glossy, dark green leaves are long and narrow with thick rusty-red indumentum. Dense, compact, spreading-rounded habit. Wavy-edged pale pink flowers fading to white in large dome-shaped trusses. To 4'(1.2m) x 5'(1.5m) wide in 10 yrs. Best in bright shade. Zone 5b.
(1 gal. - \$15.00 - May Sale Only)

R. 'Vinecrest' - {(['LaBar's White' x *fortunei*) x *wardii*] x *litiense*} Peach buds open to yellow flushed with peach and fade to yellow in dome-shaped trusses. Stunning. Olive green foliage. Upright, rounded habit to 4'(1.2m) high & wide in 12 years. An Ontario hybrid from Vineland Station. Hardy to at least -16°F(-27°C).
(1 gal. - \$15.00 - May Sale Only)

R. 'Wintonbury' - (*yakushmanum* x *fortunei*) Soft pink flowers on a compact plant. Lovely, small rounded foliage and bronzy new growth. Hardy to -15°F(-26°C).
(1 Year - \$12.00)

R. *yakushmanum* "Whitney Dwarf" - This form of the popular species has smaller leaves and is low growing. Narrow leaves with tan-white indumentum & new growth covered in silver tomentum. Dense foliage covers a symmetrical broadly mounded plant. Rosy-pink buds open to large apple-blossom pink trusses which fade to white. Best in a half day of sun. Like all yaks, we are sure this will be a welcome addition to your collection. Zone 5b.
(1 Year - \$12.00)

Evergreen Azaleas

A. 'Al's Picotee' - ('Elsie Lee' x *kiusianum*) A delightful soft pink & white, hose in hose, bi-colour. Tight mounding habit and good winter leaf retention. Very floriferous. Grown and raised in Ontario by Al Smith. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

A. 'Bixby' - (*poukhanense* hybrid) Large, vibrant dark red flowers. Very floriferous. Compact, dense spreading habit to 2'(.6m) high x 3-4'(.9-1.2m) wide. Deep green foliage turns mahogany red in fall. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C). A Mezitt hybrid.
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

R. *kiusianum* 'Mangetsu' - A delightful selection of the species with bi-coloured flowers of very pale pink edged with lavender pink. Delicate tiered habit. Zone 6, possibly colder.
(2 gal - \$20.00 - A Few Only)

A. 'Pride's Double White' - Beautiful double white flowers in profusion. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

A. 'Pride's Pale Lilac' - (*kaempferi* x *poukhanense*) Another Pride Azalea with long funnel-shaped very pale lilac flowers. Early blooming & floriferous. Tall growing. A proven performer here. One of the hardiest. Hardy to -25°F(-32°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

A. 'Stewartstonian' - Early blooming bright red Gable hybrid. Early and very floriferous. Glossy dark green foliage turns deep red in autumn. Upright, broad, twiggy habit to 4-5'(1.2-1.5m) high. Hardy to -20°F(-29°C).
(2 gal. - \$20.00)

Deciduous Azaleas

R. *schlippenbachii* - (Royal Azalea of Japan) Delicate, pale pink, flat-faced flowers held in clusters of 3 to 6. Distinctive dark green foliage in whorls at the branch tips. Excellent fall colour in shades of red, orange and yellow. Upright, multi-stemmed habit with a rounded shape. Typically grows to about 8'(2.4m) tall but can grow much taller. Needs a bit of lime or bonemeal every year or two. Zone 5.
(2 gal. - \$45.00 - A Few Only)

A. 'Snowbird' - (*atlanticum* x *canescens*) Delightful tubular-funnel-shaped white flowers with an intense sweet fragrance. Rich glaucous blue-green foliage. Broad, mounded, well-branched, stoloniferous habit. To 5'(1.5m) high. A natural hybrid from the Biltmore Estate. Zone 5.
(1 gal. - \$15.00)

Other Ericaceous Shrubs

(Cultivate as per rhododendrons except as noted.)

Enkianthus campanulatus 'Red Bells' - A large deciduous shrub with an interesting twiggy, upright, tiered-spreading habit. Dark green leaves in whorls at the branch tips. Beautiful orange, yellow and red fall colours. Small, urn-shaped flowers in pendulous clusters - cream coloured, with stronger red veining and redder tips than the type. Slow growing, 8-12'(2.4-3.6m) high and wide in time. Sun to part shade. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Enkianthus perulatus - More refined & compact than *E. campanulatus*. Bright green foliage turns scarlet in fall. Hanging panicles of fragrant, pure white, urn-shaped flowers in spring. Interesting twiggy layered structure. Mounded in shape and slow growing. Sun to part shade. To 6'(1.8m) high & wide. Zone 6. Very rare & beautiful. (2 gal. - \$25.00)

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Nana' - An evergreen shrubby groundcover with stoloniferous, arching branches. Panicles of fragrant, white, pieris-like flowers in spring. Glossy dark green leaves turn bronzy-red in fall & winter. Grows only 2'(.6m) high & spreads up to 5'(1.5m). Plant in shade, protected from drying winter winds. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Pieris 'Brouwer's Beauty' - (*floribunda* x *japonica*) A hybrid pieris with light green, evergreen foliage and large upright-nodding panicles of white lily-of-the-valley type flowers in early spring. Airy, purplish-red panicles of showy buds are held over the winter. New foliage is glossy yellowish-green. Broad, upright, dense habit to 10'(3.0m) high x 6'(1.8m) wide in many years. Zone 5b. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Pieris japonica v. *yakushmanum* 'Nocturne'- A compact mounded dwarf selection to 18"(.45m) high and spreading wider. Large white flowers in upright panicles. New foliage is bronzy-orange. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Conifers

Abies koreana 'Prostrate Beauty' - A Korean Fir cultivar with a dense, horizontal, spreading habit and long needles. Very showy upright purple cones. Will eventually grow to knee height and 10'(3m) or more across. An exceptional plant but needs lots of space. Prune out any upright leaders. Zone 6. (1 Litre - \$10.00)

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Haage' - A beautiful dwarf Hinoki Cypress with tight, dark green foliage and an irregular pyramidal, compact shape. Tips sometimes turn golden brown in winter. Very low growing. 2-3'(.6-9m) high x 1.5'(2m) wide in many yrs. Best in full sun. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Lutea' - One of the best cultivars. Stunning year-round lemon-yellow foliage if grown in full sun! Tight, irregular, broad-pyramidal habit with cup-shaped leaf sprays. Very slow growing reaching a height of 15"(.4m) high by 8"(.2m) wide in 10 years. May eventually reach a height of 6'(1.8m) or more. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Baby Blue' - (Sawara False Cypress) A sport of 'Boulevard' with tiny, dense, bright turquoise foliage. Starts out as a dense upright globe eventually forming an upright-conical plant to 6' high. Relatively slow growing - 6-8" per year. Bronze winter colour and peeling red-brown bark. One of the hardiest varieties. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$20.00 - A Few Only)

Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Golden Pincushion' - A very dwarf cultivar - to 10"(.25m) high x 15"(.4m) wide in 10 years with a dense mounded habit. Dark green foliage is tipped with bright gold colour. Zone 5. (1 gal. - \$25.00 - A Few Only)

Picea glauca 'Jean's Dilly' - This Dwarf Alberta Spruce has shorter and thinner needles with the shoots ending in a twist. Very slow growing with a denser, narrower habit reaching a height of 5'(1.5m). Best in full sun. Zone 4. (3" pot - \$5.00)

Pinus parviflora 'Adcock's Dwarf' - One of the dwarfest selections of the Japanese White Pine. Miniature grey-green needles twist around the stems. Slow growing with a compact, congested, mounded habit to 3'(9m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide in many years. Full sun. Zone 5. (1 Litre - \$10.00)

Pinus strobus 'Horsford Dwarf' - An exceptional dwarf form of the Eastern White Pine with a tight, compact rounded habit. Dense, long, soft green needles creating a soft overall texture. Grows to 2'(6m) high in 10 years and may eventually reach a size of 4'(1.2m) high x 5'(1.5m) wide. Full sun. Zone 5, possibly colder. (1 Litre - \$10.00)

Taxus x media 'Maureen' - A hardy & slow growing columnar yew! Very slow growing reaching only 4'(1.2m) high x 1'(3m) wide in 10 years! Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Taxus x media 'Sentinalis' - Another columnar hardy yew. Faster growing. May reach 8'(2.4m) high x 2'(6m) wide. Zone 6. (3.5" pot - \$5.00)

Thujaopsis dolabrata v. *hondai* - (Staghorn Cedar) Resembles a cedar but has broader, flatter, fan-like foliage - glossy green above & marked with white below. Thin red bark exfoliates in papery layers. Appearance is similar to regular *thujaopsis* but grows much larger with larger fruit. Broad conical habit. Very slow growing. May eventually reach 30'(9.0m) or more in height but probably not in your lifetime. Needs a protected, moist, but well-drained site. Zone 6. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Tsuga canadensis 'Bennett' - A stunning low- spreading Hemlock selection. Fan-like branches with pendulous tips form a beautiful mounded-tiered shrub with a depressed centre. Light green, feathery foliage. Slow growing to 2'(.6m) high x 3'(.9m) wide in 10 years - may eventually reach 5'(1.5m) high x 6'(1.8m) wide. (1 gal. - \$20.00)

Magnolias

Magnolia 'Butterflies' - (*acuminata* 'Fertile Myrtle' x *denudata* 'Sawada's Cream') Single-trunked, broad, conical upright tree to 25'(7.5m) or more high. Stunning, 3-4" dark buttery yellow flowers sit upright on its branches. Floriferous at a young age. Hardy to at least -22°F(-30°C), probably colder. A Savage hybrid.

(1 gal. - \$20.00 - May Sale Only)

Magnolia 'Elizabeth' - (*acuminata* x *denudata*) Multi-trunked, pyramidal, upright tree to 30' (9.0m) high. Fragrant, large, 6", clear pale yellow, flowers with a long tapering form, opening cup-shaped. Late & long blooming. Foliage emerges copper coloured. An old and beautiful hybrid from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Zone 6.

(Potted - 3'(9m) - \$65.00)

Magnolia 'Goldstar' - (*acuminata* var. *subcordata* 'Miss Honeybee' x *stellata* 'Rubra') Upright growing, densely branched and symmetrical to 25'(7.5m) high. Frost tolerant, creamy yellow, 4" flowers shaped like a star magnolia. New foliage emerges bronzy-red. Vigorous. A Savage hybrid. Zone 6, possibly colder.

(Potted -3'(9m) - \$65.00)

Magnolia 'Yellowbird' - (*acuminata* x *brooklynensis* 'Evamaria') Wide, upright, multi-trunked tree to 40'(12.0m) high. Tulip-shaped, 3.5", yellow flowers are smaller than 'Elizabeth' but yellower and tinged green at the base. Flowers are held upright on the branches. Another hybrid from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Zone 6.

(Potted - 3'(9m) - \$65.00)

Magnolia zenii - A rare chinese species which resembles *M. denudata*. Fragrant, 2-3" white flowers with a purple base and veining, and red stamens. The earliest blooming and frost tolerant. Single-trunked and pyramidal in habit it can reach a height of 20'(6m). Zone 6, possibly colder. As these are seed-grown, pink forms may show!

(1 gal. - \$20.00/3 gal. - \$75.00)

Other Trees & Shrubs

Abeliophyllum distichum - (White Forsythia) A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub with arching branches and a rounded habit. Masses of small white fragrant flowers along the stems very early in spring. As with Forsythias, once established, prune out 1/3 of old wood every year after flowering. Alternatively, prune back hard every 3-4 years. Great for forcing. Sun to part shade. To 5'(1.5m) high x 4'(1.2m) wide. Zone 6, possibly colder. (1 gal. - \$15.00)

Acer palmatum 'Kotohime' - (Dwarf Harp Japanese Maple) A rare and beautiful Japanese maple. Tiny leaves born closely together on a dwarf, upright twiggy plant. Leaves emerge bright-rose to orange-red, age to bright, light green & turn yellow and orange in the fall. May grow up to 6'(1.8m) tall in many years. Zone 6b.

(1 gal. - \$30.00 - Two Only)

Acer palmatum 'Omure yama' - An absolutely incredible weeping Japanese maple. Upright with arching branches when young. With age the branches become weeping. To 15'(5m) high & wide in many years with a rounded crown. Brilliant green, 7-lobed, deeply cut leaves have an orange cast in the spring and turn gold, orange and red in fall. Vigorous. Zone 6. Stunning.

(2 gal. - \$40.00 - A Few Only)

Acer pseudosieboldianum - (Korean maple) The answer for those who are unable to grow Japanese maples. Purple flowers and reddish brown branches contrast with fresh, light-green leaves. Brilliant fall colours ranging from scarlet to orange and yellow. Vigorous growing with a rounded habit. Grows 15-25'(4.5-7.5m) high. Zone 5, probably colder.

(1 gal. - \$15.00)

Chionanthus virginicus - (White Fringetree) A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree with an open-spreading habit & rounded crown. Slow growing to 12-20'(3.6-6m) tall by 10-20'(3.0-6m) wide. Dark green glossy leaves emerge late and turn yellow in fall. Fragrant flowers with long narrow petals born in large, wispy, cascading panicles in early summer. Very floriferous. Full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil. Slow to establish and difficult to transplant. Zone 5.

(1 gal. - \$15.00)

Cornus kousa v. chinensis - (Korean Dogwood) A small, multi-stemmed, shrubby tree, to 25'(7.5m) tall, with a dense horizontal habit. White flowers appear in early August, last for weeks, and are followed by raspberry-shaped red fruit. Bronze or crimson fall colour. Beautiful bark with age. Best in light shade. Requires good drainage. Hardy to -25°F(-32°F). This year we have the following two new varieties available:

'Autumn Rose' - A smaller growing cultivar growing to 12-16'(3.5-4.9m) tall selected for its fall colour - pink to dark-red. Waxy light green foliage emerges yellow to lime green. Flowers open light green and age to creamy-white. Very floriferous.

(2 gal. - \$25.00)

'Gold Cup' - More vigorous & upright than 'Gold Star', this variegated cultivar has slightly concave dark green leaves with a prominent yellow central splash. White flowers.

(2 gal. - \$25.00)

Daphne x burkwoodii 'Somerset' - (*cneorum* x *caucasica*) Lesser known than 'Carol Mackie', this cultivar has semi-evergreen, dark blue-green leaves. Very fragrant, pale blush-pink flowers in late spring and often again in the fall. Heavy blooming. Fruit is poisonous. Dense, twiggy, upright mounded habit to 3'(9m) tall x 5'(1.5m) wide. Well-drained soil in sun or part shade. Difficult to transplant. Zone 5.

(3.5" pot - \$5.00)

Fagus sylvatica 'Ansoergei' - (Purple Willow- Leaved Beech) A very rare and unusual cultivar with long, narrow (½" wide) dark purple leaves that hang down from the branches. Shrubby & slow growing Open, airy, feathery appearance. Zone 5. Seldom offered & a bargain!

(1 gal. - \$40.00 - A Few Only)

Fagus sylvatica 'Tortuosa Purpurea' - (Purple Parasol Beech) Another rare cultivar. This one has a contorted, mounded or flat-topped, wide-spreading habit. Leaves are dark purple with undulating margins. Grows to 3-4'(9-1.2m) wide in 5 years. Zone 5.

(1 gal. - \$35.00)

Perennials

Bergenia 'Pink Dragonfly' - A medium-sized *Bergenia* with thick, waxy, narrow leaves. In spring, coral pink flowers flushed darker in the centre are born in clusters on 15" stalks. Shiny, plum-red leaves with pink veining in winter (like dragonfly wings). Full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil. Zone 5, possibly colder.

(3.5" pot - \$7.00)

Brunnera macrophylla 'Langtrees' - (Siberian Bugloss) A beautiful foliage plant. Large, grey-green, heart-shaped leaves with metallic silver markings. Blue flowers resemble forget-me-nots. Grows to 12"(.3m)high x 24"(.6m) wide. Great for use as a ground cover in part-shade or shade. Moist, fertile, well-drained soil. Zone 5.

(3.5" pot - \$7.00)

Cimicifuga simplex 'Black Negligee' - (Bugbane) Bugbanes have come a long way since 'Brunette' & 'Atropurpurea.' This exciting new cultivar has the darkest purplish-black leaves yet. Leaves are deeply cut giving a very lacy effect thus the name. Clump-forming, it grows to 3-4'(9-1.2m) high in foliage and another 2'(.6m) higher when fluffy racemes of small, creamy white, purple tinged, flowers appear in late summer and early fall. Very fragrant. Part-shade in moist, well drained soil. Will take some time to get established and resents drying out. Zone 5 or colder. Spectacular, don't miss out.

(3.5" pot - \$10.00)

Corydalis elata - Fragrant, clear blue flowers with a hint of purple in late spring and summer. Similar to *C. flexuosa* & its varieties in flower but with a taller, more upright habit and does not go dormant in summer. Shade to part shade in moist, well-drained soil. To 16"(.4m) high in flower x 16"(.4m) wide. Zone 6.

3.5" pot - \$7.00

Dicentra 'King of Hearts' - This stunning hybrid spreads slowly unlike most rampant and self-sowing bleeding hearts. Forms a mound of lacy, very blue, delicate fern-like foliage. Large, dark rose to rosy-pink flowers are born over a very long period of time. To 8" high x 14" wide. Shade to part shade in moist, well-drained soil. Zone 6.

(3.5" pot - \$7.00)

Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' - A very slow growing weeping/arching grass with rich golden variegated foliage. Looks like a miniature bamboo. Not invasive. For moist part shade - scorches in full sun if dry. Very elegant, very choice. Perhaps the nicest of the small grasses. Looks great arching over a pot or wall. Grows to 12"(.3m) high x 18"(.45m) wide. Deciduous - cut back in early spring. Zone 6. In a small size at a great price.

(3.5" pot - \$5.00)

Tiarella 'Cygnet' - (Foam Flower) A semi-evergreen spring-blooming perennial for shade or part shade. Closely related to heucheras. Elongated and arching buff-beige leaves which become infused with tints of purple and green. Fragrant pink flowers in profusion on fluffy racemes to 18"(.45m) high. Zone 5.

(3.5" pot - \$5.00)

Vinca minor 'Illumination' - A new variegated periwinkle. Green edged leaves have a rich golden centre which slowly ages to cream. Blue flowers. Sure to brighten up any dark spot in shade or part shade. Zone 5.

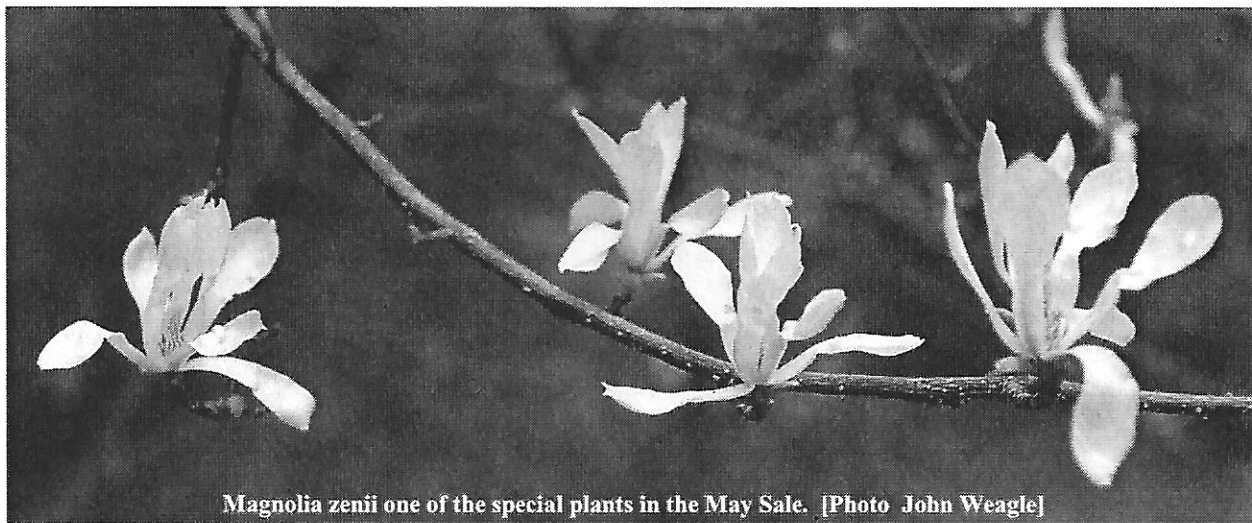
(1 gal. - \$10.00)

Vinca minor 'Sterling Silver' - Another variegated periwinkle. Medium green leaves with creamy-white edges. A striking backdrop to the blue flowers. Zone 5.

(1 gal. - \$10.00)

Viola 'Dancing Geisha' - Incredible silver-veined, grey leaves are deeply cut and ruffled. Large pale blue or white flowers in spring. Vigorous. Grows to 6" high x 8" wide. Does not self sow. Shade to part shade. Zone 6. A spectacular must have plant.

(3.5" pot - \$5.00)



Magnolia zenii one of the special plants in the May Sale. [Photo John Weagle]

Scotch Heather - A Highland Treasure

By Jamie Ellison

The Atlantic Region of Canada with its relatively cool summers, moderate winters and acid soils, is home to many wonderful species of native plants. One of our most important and diverse plant families common throughout the region is *Ericaceae*, the **Heath** family. This rich and varied Family includes our favourite genus *Rhododendron*, as well as Heaths (*Erica*) and Heathers (*Calluna*). These plants prefer our acid soils and cool, short growing season. It therefore makes perfect sense to include ornamental genera from this varied family in our gardens.

The popular term “heather” is sometimes used loosely to describe several species of plants in the genus *Calluna*. Also, a similar group of plants, in the genus *Erica*, commonly known as the heaths, is frequently confused with the *Callunas*, but differ in both appearance and flower. We will cover the *Ericas* in a subsequent article.

Scotch Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is a charming woody species native to Britain and Europe. It grows in moist, acidic, peaty soils forming large colonies called heathlands. In Northern Scotland where it appears to be most abundant, Scotch Heather has many uses. In days gone by it was used for thatching roofs on stone houses (Crofts) in the highlands. Flexible, woody stems were sometimes twined and used as rope. Nowadays beehives are placed in large tracts of heather during bloom time where heather honey is collected. Heathlands are managed and burned much like our lowbush blueberries. The lush, new growth provides a nutritious food source for many of Britain’s gamebirds.

Scotch heather is a variable species with 600 or so registered cultivars all arising from the one species. Many of these cultivars have attractive flowers in a wide range of colours. White, purple, pink, mauve and even crimson are available. Some of the cultivars have double forms. Petals of each flower are multiplied creating a spectacular floral display. Flowering begins in July and continues into October, depending on the cultivar and location. A new interesting group is called “Bud Bloomers”. The flowers never fully open, don’t get pollinated and remain colourful late into the season. In Britain and milder areas, ‘bud bloomers’ can have colour well into the Winter.

Aside from the many floral cultivars available, there are countless varieties grown for their colourful foliage and interesting forms. These offer year round color, texture and garden interest especially in late Summer, Autumn and early Spring. Heathers are great companions for dwarf conifers and *Rhododendrons*. They combine well with evergreen groundcovers (i.e., *Thymes*, *Bearberry* etc.) Some of the exceptional floral varieties like *H. E. Beale*, *Peter Sparkes* and *Tib*, can be used in shrub or mixed borders.

Cultivation, Care and Maintenance

Scotch Heather, generally speaking, is a low maintenance plant that requires a few basics to keep plants vigorous and healthy.

Soil Preparation:

Organic additions such as composted sawdust, manure, leaf mold and peat are suitable additives. In the wild, most members of *Ericaceae* are found growing in organically rich, nutrient poor soils in association with peat moss or natural leaf mold. These soils are not particularly high in nutrients but offer a steady slow release of nutrients and constant moisture for the fine fibrous root system that is typical of this group. Planting members of this group in heavy clay or loose sandy soils with no amendments is almost certain to fail. Keep in mind that any organic material added should be mixed thoroughly with the existing soil.

Heathers, like their blueberry relatives, are not heavy feeders and require very little fertilizing. Liberal amounts of bone meal and a light amount of 6-12-12 during the soil preparation will get them off to a great start. A light surface application each Spring will get them through each season.

Pruning :

An annual clipping each spring will keep the plant neat, compact and will greatly enhance the foliage and floral displays. Scotch Heather flowers on the current season’s growth.

Siting & Winter Care:

Heather appreciates full sun and even moisture throughout the growing season. They do best in sites sheltered from desiccating winter winds. New plantings respond well to mulch of bark, compost or shredded leaves. The mulch will conserve moisture during dry spells, protect the roots from penetrating cold and add organic material to the soil. Scotch heather is fairly drought tolerant once established. In colder districts (5a or colder) Scotch Heather should be mulched with evergreen boughs after the ground freezes. These are removed in early Spring (April in our region). Some winter damage may occur in snow less, dry Winters. Heather is quite resilient and generally bounces back as the new growth commences. Remove any damaged wood by cutting back. Mulching with boughs and snowcover will virtually eliminate this.

Heathers are worth trying anywhere in this Province and are reasonably hardy to Zone 5 or lower with protection and reliable snowcover.

Selections:

The following are selections that I would rate outstanding, growing well in various areas in the Province.

CULTIVAR:	Attributes & Approximate Bloom Time:
<i>Alba Jae</i>	Vigorous upright form, Single white flowers. Late July
<i>Anthony Davis</i>	Grey-green foliage, with long sprays of white flowers.
<i>Beoley Gold</i>	Golden yellow foliage all season. White flowers.
<i>Cuprea</i>	Yellow foliage turns coppery orange then red for winter. Purple flowers.
<i>Martha Herman</i>	Fresh moss green foliage. Single white flowers in July. This is the first for us to flower.
<i>Mullion</i>	Compact form producing lilac pink double flowers. August.
<i>Peter Sparkes</i>	Double clear pink flowers in unbelievable masses. Sept.- Oct.
<i>Redwings</i>	Green foliage with striking Crimson flowers. Aug.
<i>Silverknight</i>	Frosty grey foliage. Lavender flowers. Aug.
<i>Spitfire</i>	Foliage takes on hues of yellow, orange and red in Autumn.
<i>Tib</i>	Rich double purple flowers. July-Oct.
<i>Long White</i>	Tall Vigorous Cultivar, long sprays of white flowers. Can be used as a cut flower.
<i>Velvet Fascination</i>	Light gray foliage, with white flowers. Compact and upright.
<i>Boskoop</i>	Vigorous plant with copper-orangey-red foliage. Very bright.
<i>Con Brio</i>	Darkest crimson flowers I have seen. Multicolored foliage.
<i>White Lawn</i>	Prostrate selection reminiscent of a starfish. White flowers.

Established Heather plantings can be seen at Memorial University Botanical Gardens, St. John's, Nfld., Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, Annapolis Royal, NS, Bayport Plant Farm, Rose Bay, NS, St. F.X. University, Antigonish, NS, Kentville Research Station, Kentville NS, and Kingstec Campus, Kentville, NS.



'Party Pink' is another May Sale plant. [Photo John Weagle]

The Problem Of Growing Rhododendrons From Seed

By M. J. Harvey

The seed ecology of Rhododendrons is that they produce large numbers of very small seeds. Why is this? The answer is that they occupy a particular niche in the forest.

Take the horsechestnut. It has a huge seed that weighs around 12g dryweight. This mass represents a lot of starch to provide energy for the growing seedling. By the way, starch is protected from being eaten by animals by a generous admixture of the intensely bitter saponin aesculin. This large seed, given a suitable site, can quickly produce a deep root and a strong shoot without the need for much initial photosynthesis. The starch represents maternal care. (Who said plants didn't have maternal care?) These seedlings can then, given a chance, become forest giants. They are one of the emergent canopy species.

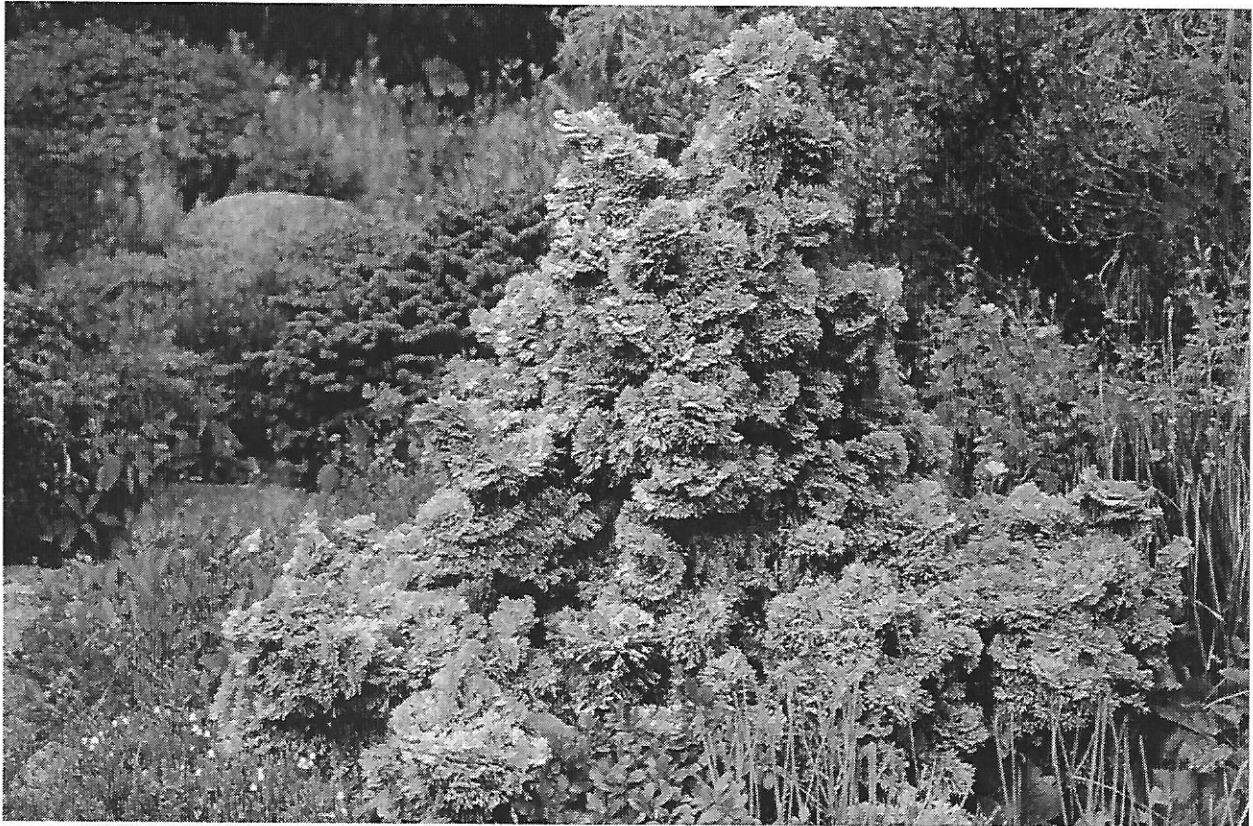
Contrast your Rhododendron seed. No, I have not weighed one. Say a single seed weighs 1mg for the sake of comparison. Not much maternal investment there – “You're on your own son.” But by way of compensation there are huge numbers of seeds that get blown hither and thither in the wind. Why? Well, Rhododendron is exploiting the understory niche. The seeds are being sent out to find a

gap in the vegetation. Some damp patch of substrate where another plant recently died or toppled over, a patch of moss or moist gravel. In these very precise habitats, Rhododendron seeds can germinate, put out their tiny leaves and start to photosynthesize. Their motto is 'photosynthesize or die'. If the site is too dark, they can't capture light energy and die. If the site is too exposed or windy, or sunny, they also die because without that 12g of starch they can't get a root deep down in a hurry.

I called Rhododendrons 'understory shrubs'. Anyone seeing Peter Wharton's Janaury slide show (at the Victoria Rhododendron Society meeting – Ed.) from the NW Yunnan border would be impressed by the 20 meter specimens, growing in some cases horizontally from a cliff. Obviously they can be top dogs as well.

So folks, please try growing Rhododendrons from seed and don't be disappointed if they die. You might say they are pre-programmed to die unless they find themselves in a very narrow band of conditions. □

This article appears concurrently in the Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter.



Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Lutea' growing in Walter Ostrom's garden. [Photo John Weagle]

RSCAR 2002 Seed Exchange

INSTRUCTIONS

Send all orders to: **Kathy Chute, Box 45, Milton, Nova Scotia B0T 1P0 CANADA**

One packet per lot per person. More may be ordered but are subject to availability. **All orders must be on the form provided and should be received by 31 March 2002.** Save this seed list as seed will be identified by number only.

Enclose a self-addressed mailing label and add \$2.00 for postage & padded envelope.

Seed packets are \$2.00 each for hand-pollinated & collected wild seed and \$1.50 each for open-pollinated seed. Please make your cheque or money order payable to 'RSC Atlantic Region'.

DONORS:

CLY - Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS **HAR** - Joe Harvey, Victoria, BC **LEV** - Sterling Levy, Fall River, NS
LOO - Jack Looye, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON **PEA** - Richard Pearson, Vancouver, BC **SHA** - Ken Shannik, Halifax, NS
STA - Barry Starling, Exeter, Devon, England **STE** - Dick Steele, Rosebay, NS **WEA** - John Weagle, Halifax, NS
WIL - Bill Wilgenhof, Antigonish, NS

SEED LIST

Rhododendron Species - Collected Wild - \$2.00

001 HAR macrophyllum, cw Hope-Princeton Hwy,
BC, Canada

Rhododendron Species - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

002 HAR arboreum 'Sir Charles Lemon',
U. Victoria, Finnerty Gdn, BC - tender
003 HAR balfourianum, Ken Gibson, Tofino, BC
004 HAR brachycarpum, FG968, Finnerty Gdn.
005 WIL canadense (rarely crosses)
006 LEV carolinianum
007 WIL carolinianum
008 LEV dauricum
009 LEV dauricum v. album
010 LEV keiskei
011 WIL mucronulatum - pink
012 WIL mucronulatum - white
013 LEV mucronulatum 'Mahogany Red'
014 HAR pseudochrysanthum, Finnerty Gdn, BC
015 HAR schlippenbachii, U. Victoria, Finnerty
Gdn, BC (doesn't cross)
016 SHA vaseyi - pink (doesn't cross)
017 LEV yakushmanum 'Ken Janeck'

Rhododendron Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

† For hybridizers goals for specific crosses see the notes at the end of the listings.

018 HAR adenogynum RSF#75/248 x
pachysanthum RSF#78/064 †
019 CLY 'Calsap' x rex RSF
020 CLY 'Catalgla' x rex RSF
021 HAR degronianum ssp heptamerum 'Enamoto'
RSF# 76/111 x makinoi †

022 HAR degronianum ssp heptamerum 'Enamoto'
RSF#76/111 x pseudochrysanthum †
023 HAR degronianum ssp. yakushmanum
'Exbury' RSF#75/260 x
microgynum RSF#68/212 †
024 HAR degronianum ssp. yakushmanum
'Exbury' RSF#75/260 x
pachysanthum RSF#78/064 †
025 HAR degronianum ssp. yakushmanum
'Exbury' RSF#75/260 x pseudochrysanthum †
026 HAR degronianum ssp. yakushmanum 'Yaku
Angel' x makinoi †
027 SHA 'Elviira' x (aureum x 'Prelude')BPT80-5†
028 SHA 'Elviira' x barbatum (Inverewe's best red) †
029 SHA 'Elviira' x orbiculare†
030 HAR microgynum RSF#68/212 x
pachysanthum RSF#78/064 †
031 WEA mucronulatum v. taguetii x dendrocharis
(Glendoick, darkest rose red)*2 †
032 WEA orbiculare x 'Minas Grand Pré'
033 HAR pachysanthum RSF#78/064 x
argyrophyllum 'Chinese Silver' RSF64/14 †
034 HAR pachysanthum RSF#78/064 x
pseudochrysanthum †
035 WEA pumilum (Grand Ridge) x
(mucronulatum 'Woodland Pink' x
mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink')†
036 LOO 'R.O. Delp' x 'Capistrano'
037 LOO 'R.O. Delp' x 'Sweet Lulu'
038 WEA (vernicosum R.#18139 Mt. Siga x
'Queen Elizabeth II') BPT#95-QER *3 x 85
[(brachycarpum x aureum) x
campylocarpum ssp. caloxanthum] *4 †

- 039 WEA viscidifolium x
(aureum x 'Prelude') BPT#80-5 †
040 WEA viscidifolium x fortunei (Ellwood) *5 †
041 WEA viscidifolium x
(vernicosum R.#18139 Mt. Siga x
'Queen Elizabeth II') BPT#95-QER *3 †

Rhododendron Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 042 LEV 'April Rose'
043 LEV 'Henry's Red'
044 LEV 'Janet Blair'
045 LEV 'Minas Grand Pré'
046 LEV 'Rochelle'

Azalea Hybrids - Hand-Pollinated - \$2.00

- 047 WEA 'Blue Danube' x (nakaharai "Orange
Form" x kiusianum 'Mt. Fuji') F2 *1 †
048 STA ['Laura Morland' x (nakaharai
"Orange Form" x kiusianum 'Mt. Fuji')
F2] semi-dble blush pink x semi-dble
coral sibling (also reverse cross)

Azalea Hybrids - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 049 WIL deciduous - mixed

Companion Plants - Open-Pollinated - \$1.50

- 050 SHA Acaena microphylla - 3"h., low
spreader, full sun - Perennial
051 WIL Allium karataviense 'Ivory Queen' -
white, 12", broad leaves - Bulb
052 WIL Allium 'Purple Sensation' - 4' - Bulb
053 SHA Anthericum liliago (St. Bernard's Lily)
- 2', white - Per.
054 SHA Anthericum ramosum - 2', white - Per.
055 SHA Arisaema flava - 6", tender - Bulb
056 WIL Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) -
white, 3' - Per.
057 SHA Astrantia carniolica (Masterwort) - Per.
058 SHA Astrantia major (Masterwort) - 3' - Per
059 SHA Astrantia major 'Alba' - Per.
060 WIL Campanula lactiflora 'Loddon Anne'
(Milky Bellflower) -pale pink, 4-5' - Per.
061 SHA Campanula persicifolia planiflora - blue,
8", recessive form, 10% come true - Per.
062 SHA Cimicifuga racemosa ex 'Hillside Black
Beauty' (Bugbane) - 5', v. dk. fol. - Per.
063 SHA Clematis chiisanensis - small flowered
yellow climber, v. nice -Shrub
064 SHA Clematis chiisanensis ex 'Lemon Bells'
065 LEV Clematis fargesii - clusters of sm. white
flowers all summer, climber - Shrub
066 SHA Clematis integrifolia - Per.
067 WIL Clematis orientalis - yellow, late,
herbaceous sprawler - Per.
068 LEV Clematis recta - lg. clusters of white
flowers, needs training, herbaceous -Per.
069 LEV Clematis sp. (stans?) - sm. blue, bell-
shaped flowers, fragrant, herbaceous

- 070 SHA Cotoneaster bullatus - tall, deciduous,
red berries - Shrub
071 SHA Deinanthe bifida - white, 20", rare - Per.
072 LEV Dianthus - mixed rock gdn. types - Per.
073 SHA Disporum uniflorum - Per.
074 SHA Disporum species - Per.
075 LEV Dodecatheon sp. (Shooting Star)- mixed,
woodland, summer dormant - Per.
076 WIL Doronicum austriacum (Leopard's Bane)
- late, yellow, long blooming, 3' - Per.
077 LEV Enkianthus campanulatus - bell-shaped
cream flowers, good fall colour - Shr.
078 SHA Gentiana affinis - 3", blue, summer -Per.
079 SHA Gentiana asclepiadea (Willow Leaf
Gentian) - 2', blue, late - Exc. cut flower.
080 SHA Gentiana asclepiadea ex 'Alba' - Per.
081 SHA Gentiana kurroo - 6", blue - Per.
082 WIL Heliopsis helianthoides - yellow, 3' - Per.
083 WEA Ilex ciliospinosa (Holly) - probably
pollinated by I. x meservae - Shrub
084 WIL Iris ensata (Japanese Iris) - white w/
purple stripes, 30" - Per.
085 SHA Iris graminea - yellow/violet, 12" - Per.
086 WIL Iris sibirica - blue, 30" - Per.
087 WIL Iris sibirica - white/yellow, 30" - Per.
088 SHA Iris sintenisii - white/violet, 18" - Per.
089 WIL Kalmia latifolia (Mountain Laurel) - Shr
090 WIL Kalmia latifolia 'Pinwheel' - Shrub
091 WIL Lathyrus species/hybrid - (Sweet Pea)
- pink, climber, 4' - Per.
092 SHA Lilium columbianum - orange, summer
dry - Bulb
093 SHA Lilium henryi - orange/green - Bulb
094 SHA Lilium martagon 'Album' (Turks Cap
Lily) - Bulb
095 SHA Lilium nepalense - green/burgundy,
winter dry - Bulb
096 WIL Lilium - mixed - Bulb
097 WIL Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'
098 SHA Magnolia x loebneri 'Spring Snow'
099 STE Magnolia macrophylla - Bayport - Tree
100 WEA Magnolia sieboldii "Halifax Hardy"
101 WEA Magnolia sieboldii - ex Korea - lg. flowers -
Tree
102 WEA Magnolia sieboldii - Halifax Hardy and
ex Korea mixed - Tree
103 PEA Magnolia sprengeri 'Diva' - Tree
104 SHA Nomocharis farreri - Bulb
105 WIL Paeonia hybrids - mixed - Per.
106 WIL Papaver miyabeianum - yellow, 8" - Per.
107 SHA Paradisea liliastricum (St. Bruno's Lily)
- white, 24" - Per.
108 LEV Penstemon digitalis - white, reddish
leaves, 2' - Per.
109 LEV Primula japonica - mixed, mauve thru red - Per.
110 LEV Primula japonica - white - Per.
111 LEV Primula modesta - pink & white mixed,
farinose - Per.

- 112 LEV *Primula sieboldii* - mixed, summer dormant - Per.
- 113 SHA *Platycodon grandiflora* (Balloonflower) - dwarf white with blue streaking -Per.
- 114 SHA *Potentilla dickinsii* - Shrub
- 115 LEV *Ramonda myconii* - hardy gesneriad, mauve, excellent drainage - Per.
- 116 WIL *Rudbeckia hirta?* - (Brown-eyed Susan) - mixed, 2' - Per.
- 117 WIL *Salvia sclarea* - lilac-purple, aromatic, grey foliage, 2' - Biennial
- 118 SHA *Uvularia grandiflora* & *perfoliata* mixed - yellow, woodland - Per.

Footnotes

- *1. (nakaharai 'Orange Form' x 'kiusianum Mt. Fuji')F2 - extremely dwarf dark purple, 15cm across after 11 years, very tight.
- *2. *dendrocharis* (Glendocik, darkest rose red) - a fantastic newly introduced lepidote species with large rose red flowers (in this form), superb tight habit, excellent crisp hard foliage.
- *3. (*vernicosum* R.#18139 x 'Queen Elizabeth II') BPT#95-QER - A hybrid of Cpt. R.M. Steele, plant hardy to -19°F, bud hardy circa -5 to-10°F. Multi-coloured but giving the effect of orange from a distance.
- *4. [(*brachycarpum* x *aureum*) x *campylocarpum* ssp. *caloxanthum*] - Ostrom hybrid. Quite orange in bud, opening a good yellow. Blooms a week after Bpt#80-5.
- *5. *fortunei* (Ellwood) - grown by Walter Ostrom from Lu Shan form selfed. Excellent form. Plant hardy at Indian Harbour, NS. Flowers excellent.

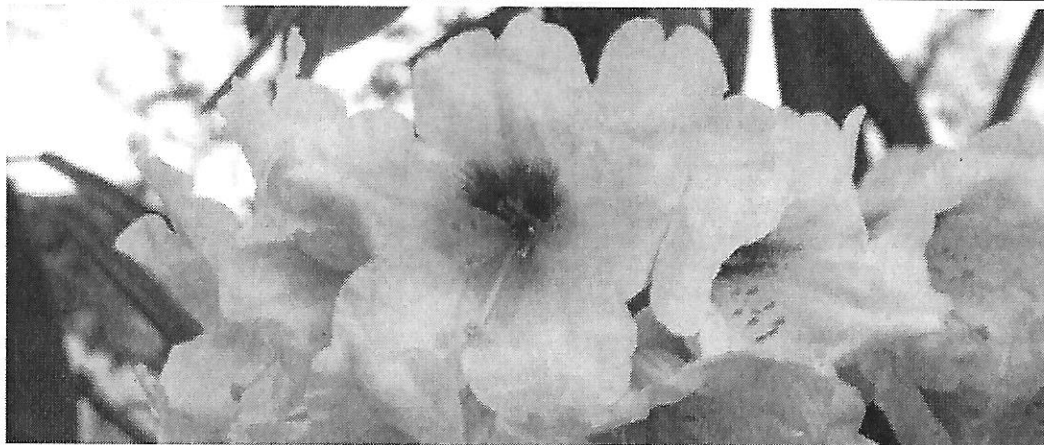
† **Hybridizer's Goals**

- 018, 021 to 026 - Compact, indumented foliage plants; narrow or broad leaves
- 027 Yellow, red & possibly pink, early hardy dwarfs.

- 028 To combine an excellent *barbatum* with a super-plant hardy hybrid. Progeny may be tender but could be taken to the F2 later.
- 029 To increase hardiness in an orbiculate shaped flower. Colour will certainly be good.
- 030 Compact, indumented foliage plants; narrow or broad leaves.
- 031 May be semi-deciduous but possibly improved flower colour and foliage. Hardiness in a *dendrocharis* hybrid.
- 033 to 034 - Compact, indumented foliage plants; narrow or broad leaves.
- 035 Increased hardiness in a *pumilum* hybrid. Possible fertility to go to the F2.
- 038 An orange, early and hardy, semi-dwarf for full sun & windy areas.
- 039 An orange, early and hardy dwarf. Improve the foliage.
- 040 To get orange and good foliage into a primary *fortunei* cross. Weevil resistance.
- 041 for Zone 7 residents. Colour may have orange tones. Good foliage as well.
- 047 Dark dwarf purple, hardier than Blue Danube, excellent colour.

Notes

- 1. **Open-pollinated species may not come true from seed. Cultivars, with the exception of a few perennials do not come true. Plants from these seeds should not be labelled as being that species or cultivar. Be sure that you label the plants as being 'OP' in the case of species and 'ex' in the case of cultivars.**
- 2. *R. degronianum* ssp. *heptamerum* was formerly *R. metternichii*.
- 3. Magnolia seed #97 to #103 has been partially stratified. Store in plastic packet in fridge until ready to sow, then sow in warm soil.
- 4. See the RSCAR Members' Handbook for an article on growing rhododendrons from seed. The article can also be found on our website. Sow #077, #089 & #090 as per rhododendrons.
- 5. We would like to thank the seed donors for their time and effort making crosses, collecting and cleaning seeds.☐



Rhododendron 'Babylon'. [Photo John Weagle]

The Seed Crisis

By M. J. Harvey

There is a problem. Let me put it into point form and see what you think.

1. Not many people in Victoria (or Halifax. Editor) grow Rhododendrons from seed.
2. Of the annual local seed offering much goes unsold.
3. Additionally we are due to get a whole whack of rare seeds collected in NW Yunnan by the Hootman-Wharton etc. 2001 expedition. Say we get 40 collections each containing many hundreds of seed. Potentially say 20,000 plants.
4. We have been charging \$2.00 per packet.

The Problem

We have a responsibility to do good things with all that seed. It is our lifeblood. How do we get it distributed? Get it grown? How can we get more people growing Rhododendrons from seed?

More to the point, is the \$2.00 charge a disincentive? Should we lower it? Give the seed away? Charge even more?

Debate

Let me present the arguments in a debate format.

MOTION: That we should give the seed away.

In favour of the motion

1. Free seed will encourage more people to try raising seedlings.
2. The \$2.00 charge is a penalty and a burden on our local experienced growers who are pioneering on behalf of us all.
3. Some of the seed sits unsold each year.
4. We have as a Chapter already paid for the Yunnan seed by the grant given towards Peter Wharton's expenses.
5. We don't need the money.
6. The experience of raising seedlings will raise enthusiasm and have a positive effect on members.

Opposing the motion

1. If the seed is given away it will be treated casually by inexperienced growers and the seedlings will be lost. This is known as the "pearls before swine hypothesis". (I should add that even experienced growers lose seedlings.)
2. A charge for seeds is a positive incentive for growers to look after their seedlings.
3. This is very scarce, rare seed. The previous Wharton collections contained species not in cultivation or extremely rare in the Western world – e.g., *R. agastum*, *coeloneuron*, *dauidii*.
4. The ARS last year charged \$5.00 US for special seed. That is \$8.00 Canadian. Are we in fact under-pricing? We don't want to get too far out of line with our umbrella organisation.
5. \$2.00 per packet is, in any case, very modest nowadays. Even packets of common vegetable seed cost more.
6. Money raised from the seed table goes to the Chapter operating costs.

Much of the above is predicated on the idea that getting more people growing Rhododendrons from seed is **A Good Thing**. Could I put the contrary idea that this is not such a good idea. After all, these seedlings are of unknown and unproven value. Unlike the available commercial clones they have not been evaluated and have not received the imprimature of a cultivar name. Since most people have limited space in which to plant specimens it is wise to avoid the unknown. As Mary Greig wrote long ago "The last thing the world needs is another pink Rhododendron."

The Future

So where do we go? What do you think? What is our responsibility toward these seeds. I don't have the answers. Let's ask our executive committee to consider it. Talk about it.

There are many possible solutions. One would an allocation of a certain number of packets free per person. Another would be to give the seeds to a commercial nursery to raise. This might be more efficient - but remote. Our current system is wasteful.. A grower receives a packet of seeds.. With luck they germinate. A few of the tangle may get

transplanted. One of a few survive. The grower only has space for one. In other words the mortality of the seedlings is extremely high. I would hazard a wild guess that on average one packet of seeds results in one or fewer mature plants – usually fewer. Contrast that with the potential that, with extreme care, we could end up with, say, 20,000 plants. Whoa Nelly!

The 2005 Convention in Victoria

One additional item we should bear in mind is that at their conventions Chapters try to do or provide something that will make their particular convention memorable. One possibility is to have available plants of well-grown seedlings of really rare species for our visitors to take way. Might we get rid of a few of those 20,000 seedlings?

This article appears concurrently in the Victoria Rhododendron Society Newsletter

Some Thoughts

By John Weagle

Ideally a policy should be in effect before subscribing to an expedition. Peter Wharton and Steve Hootman et al put a tremendous amount of time, research and energy into these expeditions to improve our **knowledge** of rhododendrons and the possibility of introducing new plants. Months of study and research are required before heading out in the wild. And then imagine yourself in the wilds of China for 3 weeks: the leeches, the hair-raising cliffs along narrow paths, the wet, the cold, the heat, the altitude – the commitment. If we are not there to support them on the most basic level – growing the seed - then they may as well stay home on the couch, gaga, watching TV. True, few cultivar names have resulted from recent collections, but good-doers and better forms may show up, given more time.

Many more seedlings have yet to bloom and it is instructive to have a small grouping of several different plants of one species collected in the wild that you yourself have grown from scratch.

If the foliage and habit are presentable, we have a good garden plant; if this is not the case, toss them. Just yesterday, transplanting roxieanum seedlings, I noticed one plant with an extraordinary root system – was I excited? Damn right, this could be a valuable asset. From Wharton's last collections, a few locals here in Nova Scotia grew the seed – the attrition rate was high and most people failed miserably. Many of the species were not hardy and many more were under accession numbers only, some were clearly mis-named. A couple of hundred dollars down the tube, right? Wrong. Stevenson and Archibald have a single *R. auriculatum* from that trip that appears to be Halifax hardy; John Brett has some really big-leafed plants, a few hardy and clean leafed auriculatums and a few very interesting species yet to be named. That, for me, is very exciting. Worth a couple of hundred dollars? You bet! Knowledge doesn't go forward unless we support the momentum. These seeds and our records and observations are that momentum. We learn from the mistakes, the stumbles, the disasters, the losses and the successes - all part of this forward motion.

No vast estates and gentry to finance the large scale growing of these seeds? Now, as Joe mentions, who to get to grow them? It's got to be you. Just a pinch. Furthermore, your garden will be something more than a collection of named hybrids and well known forms of the species, everyone will be interested in your new rarities - experts and members alike - because they are unique. It's very rewarding and you'll be supporting those young firebrands whose determination and cleverness keep us moving ahead with Genus Rhododendron. ☐



'Al's Picotee', an evergreen azalea available at the May Sale. [Photo John Weagle]

A Bit More About *R. Fortunei*

By Leo Smit

For some years now I've been growing increasingly fond of the *fortunei*-based Rhodos in my garden. I've even tried to organize myself into writing a brief article for the Newsletter, to spread the word on them. So I was very pleased to see the article "F is for Fortunei" by Norman Todd in the October issue.

I'd like to add a complementary and Maritime perspective to his treatment.

My knowledge of *fortunei* is from growing two hybrids, 'Cadis' (obtained from Greer in 1991 as a knee-high bush) and 'Gloxineum' (obtained through our tissue culture order of 1990). Both took a while to get a good start, 'Cadis' having the disadvantage of being carefully planted in a supposedly sheltered area which then turned out to be a wind-tunnel in winter! (It's still in the same place but seems to have gotten used to a bit of windburn on the northeastern leaves).

Both are rated hardy to -15F (-25C) and have survived the odd night of -30C here in Mt. Uniacke. Flowering (first blooms were in '97) hasn't been heavy but I don't indulge in high-intensity gardening so am happy with whatever shows each year. The trusses are a single ring of large flowers rather than the more familiar domes or pyramids, but the important thing, for our climate, is that *fortunei*'s are, as far as I know, our best chance for a fragrant flowered Rhodo in this climate, and these two cultivars do not disappoint. Also of importance may be the relatively late bloom date and extended bloom period. 'Cadis' starts in late June and lasts up to three weeks, although 'Gloxineum' starts in mid-June and has a shorter duration.

The foliage is to my mind outstanding. Long, smooth-edged leaves of mid-green with a soft patina. Of great importance to those shy of chemicals and/or living in wooded areas teeming with insects good bad and indifferent, my *fortunei*-based plants remain virtually untasted, while *catawbiense*-based plants are forever being sampled and enjoyed by some insect or another (including, but not limited to, the dread vine weevils).

Another interesting characteristic of the leaves is their response to cold weather. They roll up much much tighter than my other rhododendrons, and the petioles (leaf stems) become completely limp so the leaf hangs straight down, while *catawbiense* tend to hang at an acute but significant angle off the vertical. Result? Superior snow-shedding ability for the *fortunei*'s. This was most obvious in the heavy snows of the 2000 - 01 Winter. 'Cadis' was about the only "semi-exposed" Rhodo here to make it through without any broken limbs. 'Gloxineum' was also unscathed but in similar, more wooded, locations plants from other parentage were unscathed also.

The form of 'Cadis' is outstanding. 'Gloxineum' is in a bit too much shade here to take on any particular form yet. Norman Todd suggests that those with small properties should steer clear of *fortunei*'s, but I'd like to suggest that gardeners with limited space, and who are a dab hand at pruning, might make a good go of one. For those with the room, it's a must!

Now to get those seedlings of *fortunei* proper growing on! ☐



R. bakeri is a good late-blooming North American azalea species. [Photo Don Craig]