

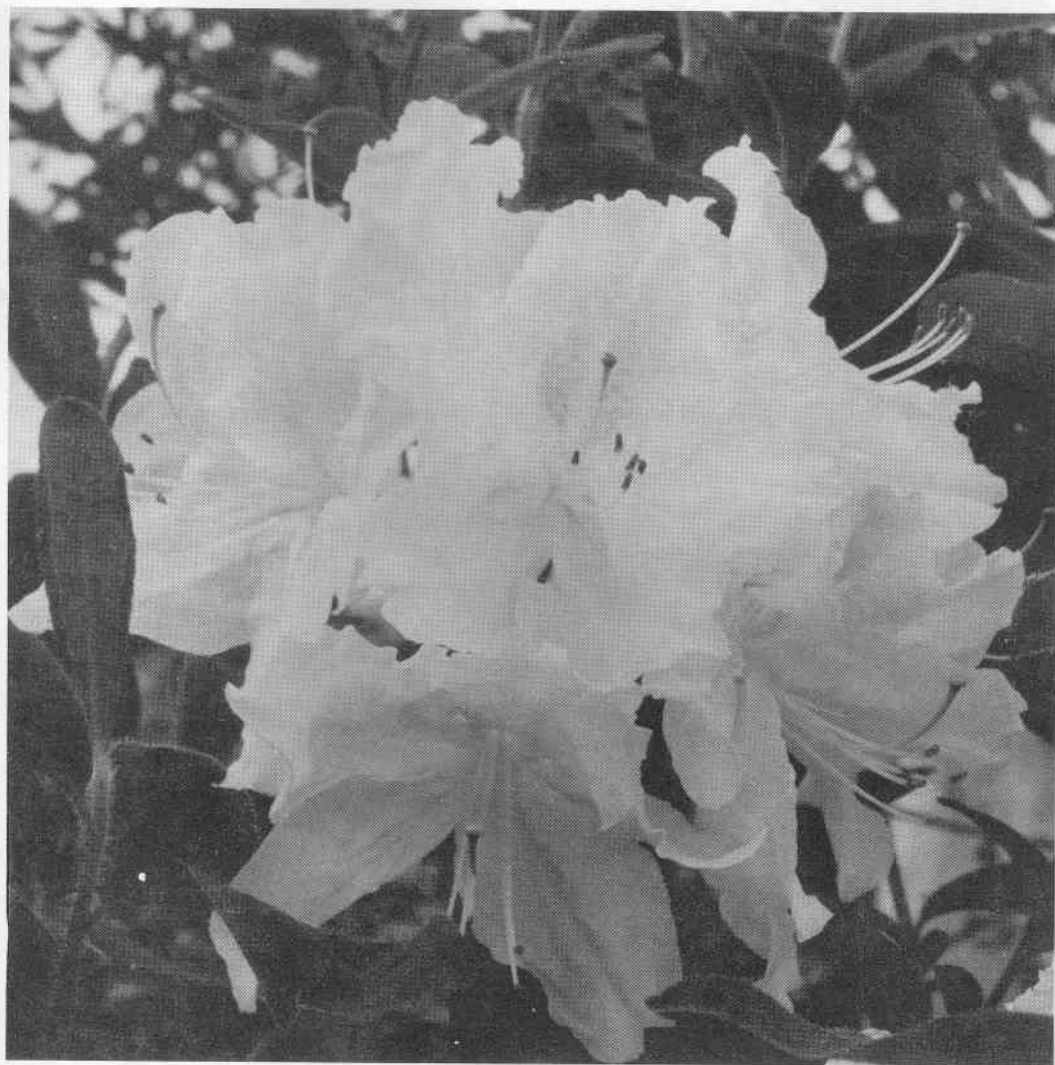


**Rhododendron
Society
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Bulletin 1978

Volume 7 Number 1

**Soci t 
Canadienne
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CONTENTS

Page 3	Editorial Comment	
	Our Front Cover Picture	
4	My Friend Les Hancock	<i>W. J. Brender à Brandis</i>
	M. Leslie Hancock 1892-1977	<i>K. Leishman</i>
8	News from H.R.I.O.	<i>A. W. Smith</i>
	Personal Impressions of the 7th Annual Flower Show and a Special Presentation to Mary Cohoe	<i>M. H. Van Alstyne</i>
9	Clinic	<i>M. H. Van Alstyne</i>
10	How I Grow Azaleas in a Sub-Zero Area	<i>K. Duncan</i>
15	Informational Folder	
16	The Rhododendron Garden of St. Catharines	<i>R. Behring</i>
19	The Best of Two Worlds	<i>R. Behring</i>
20	Solving Cultural Troubles of Rhododendrons and Other Ericaceous Plants	<i>A. M. S. Pridham & A. S. Leiberman</i>
24	Regional Notes	Atlantic Region Toronto Region Niagara Peninsula Region Owen Sound, Ontario Mississauga, Ontario Vancouver, B.C.
27	Swaps and Sell New Members	

ILLUSTRATIONS

Page 5	M. Leslie Hancock
15	'Koster's Brilliant Red'
17	Rhododendron Garden — St. Catharines (plan)
Cover	'Ballerina'

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

First I must express my profound regret at the very long delay in publishing this so-called "Spring Issue" of the Bulletin, due to very great personal and business pressures. I hope that current reorganization of the Editorial Committee will create better scheduling and delays such as this will not reoccur.

I would like to thank Bill Brandis, our First President and Kathy Leishman, our Sixth President for their very warm and personal tributes to my father, Leslie Hancock, which appear within. Many members sent expressions of sympathy on learning of his death last December, and it was very comforting to the family to know that he had, in his lifetime, been able to reach out and "touch" many people.

Other articles cover a good cross section of topics ranging from what amounts to "history" — an article on azaleas by Ken Duncan, still pertinent to today though very much a pioneer piece when first published nineteen years ago; to something very "now" — the establishment of a new rhododendron test garden, described by Rudy Behring in two separate pieces. Good cultural information is found in several other articles.

Of particular interest to me are the Regional Notes. Though brief this time they indicate the steadily consolidating activity of the three officially established Regions. The report from Owen Sound suggests what might be a most interesting project for those Regions. Within each of these regional areas are surely to be found several Horticultural Societies. What better way to encourage people to try rhodos than to organize a similar project annually with: first a Rhodo Society slide presentation to dedicated gardeners, followed by the donation of a few plants for trial. Many new converts might result!

I am happy to say that material for the Bulletin is coming in more freely but ask again that members participate with their own experiences. We would welcome also, comments on the Bulletin content and suggestions for the kind of articles you would like to see included. Remember that it is your Society and what you require is what we wish editorially to provide. Your suggestions would also be helpful in planning presentations for both the National and Regional meetings.

OUR FRONT COVER PICTURE

Ballerina is a highly rated member of the Exbury Azalea group. It is a strong growing shrub with rounded trusses of pure white flowers, faintly dotted with yellow on the upper petal. Flowers are broad and open with lightly ruffled edges. *Photo: M. H. Van Alstyne*

MY FRIEND LES HANCOCK

W. J. Brender à Brandis Carlisle, Ontario

Years ago I decided to grow rhododendrons under my pine and oak trees. I had never done it before, but had seen many plantings in British Columbia and Europe. I did not know whether they would be hardy in our climate as until then I had not seen any in Ontario. Somebody suggested that I should go to Les Hancock.

During that first visit he took me around in the nursery, explained his methods of propagating and growing, told me about soil requirements and reference books. I went home with two plants, much knowledge, and inspired with his enthusiasm. This was his way to treat strangers coming to his nursery and interrupting his busy working day.

When, at a later visit, I told him that I had become a member of the Great Lakes Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, he pointed out the need for organizing an Ontario Chapter of the A.R.S. to create contact between the people interested in these plants. A meeting was held in Vineland in May 1971 with the intention to form a separate chapter. Roy Forster suggested that we should organize an independent society for Eastern Canada. A study committee was elected with five members including Les Hancock. From the beginning he was much in favour of a Canadian organization. He travelled to the Maritimes to get the opinion of the growers in that area, and he did more work than any of the other committee members.

On October 30, 1971 the Rhododendron Society of Canada became a reality. The 33 persons who became members on that day and those applying for membership before January 1, 1972 received a free rhododendron plant from Les.

He had refused to stand for nomination as the first president, but that did not mean that he was less active in assisting this new venture to become a success. Due to his confidence and foresight the society started to publish a high-quality bulletin instead of a cheap newsletter. At his initiative the first flower show was held after only seven months. He felt strongly that, eventually, separate regions should be formed within the society; fortunately he witnessed this successful development.

At that time I had the impression that Les was about 70 years old and I admired his vitality and sharp mind. When I heard that actually he was some 10 years older, I was amazed how much he accomplished at that age.

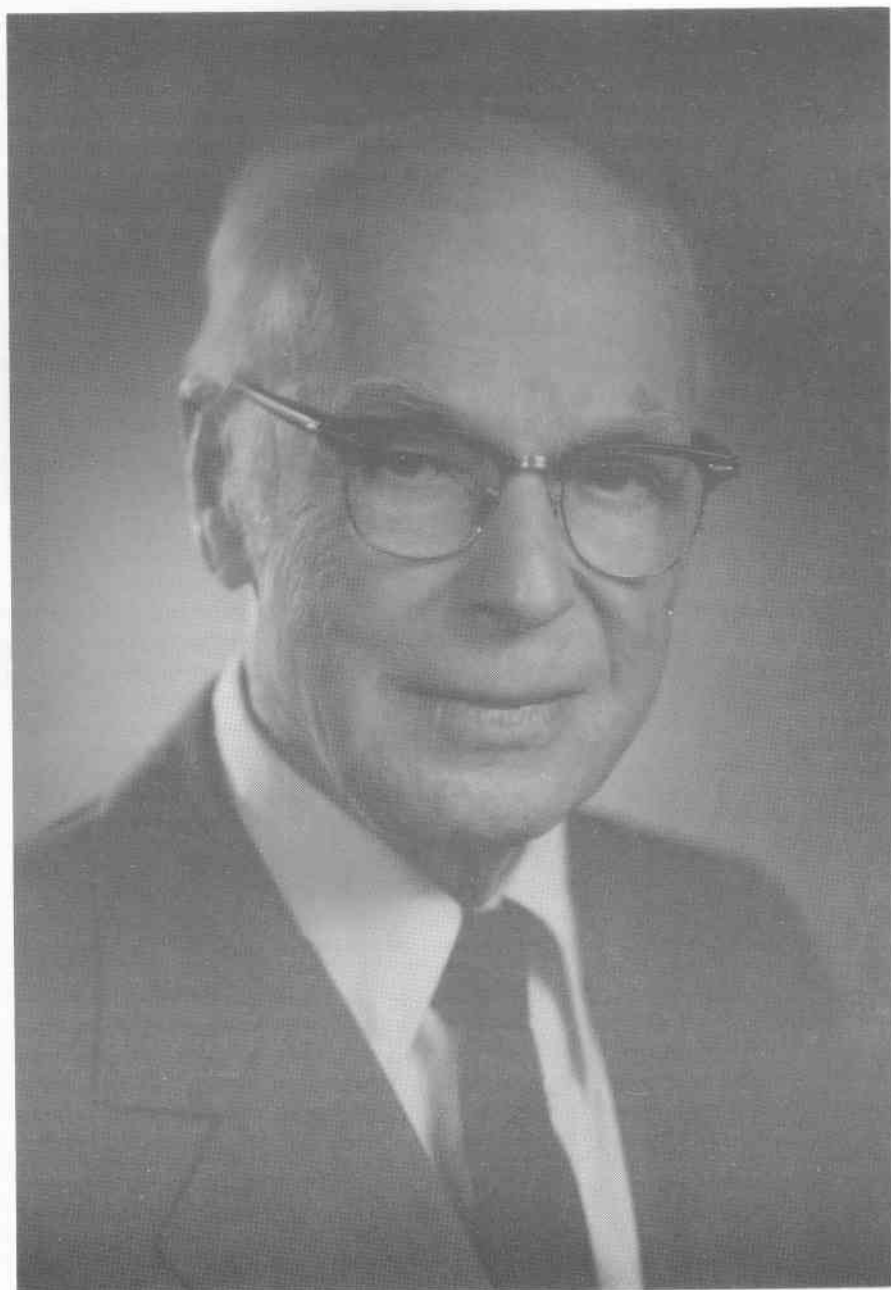
Now Les has been taken away from us and without him we have to carry on his work of letting Canadians know of the beauty of rhododendrons. We also must try to follow his example in our relationship to other people.

M. LESLIE HANCOCK 1892 - 1977

K. Leishman Mississauga, Ontario

There is often an almost mystical tie between a gardener and his garden. It's a bond which expresses itself not only in the encouragement of plant growth, but in the subtler entanglements of garden structure. The thought and consideration given to the needs of delicate roots, the enchantment of dappled sunlight on

M. Leslie Hancock
March 10, 1892 — December 2, 1977
Photo: Larry Gooder 1974



bright May blossoms, and the happy and seemingly natural correlation of Asian beauties and Canadian wildlings. This bond is something that is difficult to define, but for many Eastern gardeners was best personified by Leslie Hancock.

All of you who were fortunate enough to see the Woodland Nurseries displays at the Toronto Garden Club Flower Shows will know what I mean. His arrangements were so evocative of a country Spring that one caught one's breath — not just in the handling of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, but in the inclusion of less exotic plants. One year I remember the elegance of a maple sapling in rosy flower, drifts of apricot to rose azaleas beneath. The arrangement not only caused one to stop and to learn, but refreshed the eye, (perhaps) especially after the visual exhaustion of all those scarlet tulips!

Perhaps a brief outline of Les' pre-nursery life will give some idea of the events which must have coloured both his approach to gardening and to life. (These notes have been kindly provided by Marjorie Van Alstyne from the files at Woodland Nurseries.)

Marcus Leslie Hancock was born in Kent, England March 10, 1892. His family owned a grain mill, and from the first he was interested in the kitchen garden, and the plants and flowers of the walled mill garden. His early nursery experience was nearby, but in the Spring of 1914, at the age of twenty-two, he emigrated to Canada, and took a job with a nursery in the Niagara region. In the Fall of 1914, he entered the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and on completion of that year he enlisted in the Second University Company. By June his company was on its way to England as reinforcements to the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. After a few weeks of training in England, the company went into active service near Ypres in September, 1915. In April 1917, he was selected for officer training, and was sent to England for courses at Bexhill, Sussex. He returned to the P.P.C.L.I. as lieutenant with his original fellow soldiers in August 1917, and continued in active front line service with the Regiment until the end of the war. He withstood the Siege of Sanctuary Wood, the Battle of the Somme, and was awarded the Military Cross for heroism in the capture of Mons, Belgium.

After demobilization in the Spring of 1919, Les returned to horticulture in Canada, and found a job at E.D. Smith & Sons, Winona Nurseries. He spent the summer of 1920 as Soldier Settlement Supervisor on Vancouver Island, and the next two winters as a student at O.A.C. Upon graduation in 1922, Les joined the staff of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture at the Bell, Maryland station.

It was in the late summer of 1923 that he made the journey to Nanking, China, taking a position on the staff of the University of Nanking. His work included teaching all horticultural subjects and directing practical field work for the College of Agriculture and Forestry in Nanking and Hankow. In 1924 he married Dorothy Macklin, the daughter of a Canadian medical missionary, Dr. William E. Macklin.

They spent several happy years which were interrupted in the Spring of 1927 when Chiang Kai Shek came north with his revolutionary forces. Les was taken prisoner by the revolutionaries, his home burned. Several of his colleagues were shot, but

his students helped him to escape. Fortunately, his wife, Dorothy, and two year old son Macklin had left just before, and made their way to Britain by ship. Les decided to take an overland route, travelling through Dairen, Harbin, Manchouli, Moscow, Warsaw, Berlin and Ostend. He was re-united with his family in England.

The family returned to Canada in September 1927, and until 1930 Les directed landscape work for Sheridan Nurseries and Brookdale Nurseries in Bowmanville. He started his own nursery and landscape design business in Port Credit in 1930, later in that year moving to the present site of Woodland Nurseries on Camilla Road. The ten acres on Camilla was part of a 500 acre farm, and included the farm woodlot, which still stands, and has been developed into a lovely woodland garden, featuring many old and handsome rhododendrons and azaleas.

In addition to the nursery work, Les also took a position as lecturer at O.A.C., Guelph, and it was during this time (1937-1943) that he became involved with the importation and testing of hardy rhododendrons and azaleas. He was the original proponent of an Arboretum at Guelph.

From 1943 to 1945, Leslie Hancock represented the constituency of South Wellington in the provincial legislature. His maiden speech dealt with the subject of conservation in Ontario, and its importance in our environment.

From 1945, Les devoted himself to the development of Woodland Nurseries, bringing new plant selections to the public such as — "Hancock Coralberry", *Euonymus* "Gold Tip" and "Woodland", and of course working with his beloved Rhododendrons. Several varieties which came from this work include — 'Pink Pompon' (*R. carolinianum* x *R. racemosum*), 'Fundy' (*R. fortunei* x *R. smirnowii*), 'Jolly Red Giant' (*R. smirnowii* x *Catawbiense* hybrid) and a number of others still under evaluation.

His devotion and skill in all things horticultural were recognized over the years by awards from the Ontario Nurseryman's Association and the Ontario Landscape Contractors (now together as Landscape Ontario), International Plant Propagators' Society, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, International Shade Tree Conference and the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. In 1974 he received a Centennial Medal from O.A.C., and in the spring of '77 was presented with the Award of Honour from the Garden Club of Toronto.

From these notes the reader may draw a picture of a man of many talents, — hard working, busy — but perhaps his most appreciated talent showed itself in his ability to give so generously of his knowledge. To take the time to explain the reasons behind the planting directions, to gently correct a botanical mispronunciation, so helpful to a novice gardener, and to generally look cheerful when one showed up just loaded with gardening questions. Always there were patient answers, and not just to do with the growth of plants, but sometimes and most interestingly, on the growth of people too! As Bill Brandis mentions in his tribute, one came away feeling re-vitalized and charged with enthusiasm, grateful to be part of the commonwealth of gardeners.

NEWS FROM H.R.I.O.

A. W. Smith at Vineland, Ontario

On Sept. 5/77 I had the pleasure of visiting the summer home of Ross and Shirley Dean at Arden on Severn (Vol. 2, No. 3 — RSC Bulletin). The area that has been developed is a paradise in itself, even without rhodos or azaleas.

In 1973 Ross approached H.R.I.O. with the idea of using this area as a test garden for rhododendrons. Ken Begg gave Ross some plants and seedlings that year and I also donated some plants in 1975. It was a pleasant surprise to observe the results of this test area.

There was very little sign of chlorosis and the majority of the plants showed healthy dark green leaves. *R. carolinianum* was quite happy with many buds already developed for the next spring. 'Cheer' was also well budded. There were some plants that had been badly damaged by the -40° C (-40° F) temperature. Some were developing new growth at ground level.

It was quite apparent that all growth above the snow line was completely killed, however the snow four feet deep provided ideal insulation for the rest of the plant. It seems quite evident that "iron-clad" types that mature at four foot levels or less could be successfully grown in heavy snow areas. I also noticed that many plants seemed to grow broader than tall, perhaps due to the weight of the snow on the branches for so long. The fact to remember is that Mother Nature controls the situation. All of these plants would have been in very poor condition at -40° without their winter blanket.

I would suggest that Ross be approached for a more detailed list of cultivars that have been successful so far. I hope Ross will have some coloured slides to show our members at a future date.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE 7TH ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND A SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO MARY COHOE

M. H. Van Alstyne Mississauga, Ontario

As I write this following our 1978 Show I have still fresh memories of an excellent display of bloom, in spite of a very late cool spring (and threats of cancellation!) and of a gathering of friends, warmer, more joyous and enthusiastic than ever before.

Of particular meaning to me were two events which took place that day. In the afternoon I was privileged to assist in the dedication of a Rhododendron Garden — at the Bird Sanctuary in St. Catharines, with the ceremonial planting of 'Spring Show'. This hybrid was created by my father, Leslie Hancock and had won the Best Canadian Hybrid and Best in Show Awards at the Society's very first Annual Show in 1971.

At the excellent dinner party in the evening a second special event took place. A richly deserved presentation was made — Honourary Life Membership for Mary Cohoe. From its very beginnings the Society has benefitted from Mary's enthusiastic support: serving as a Director and our Fourth President; filling vases for the flower shows and getting down on her knees helping with displays;

donating trophies for the shows and special commemorative awards for our 5th Anniversary; always a warm welcome to hold executive meetings in her home — the list is endless. Her loyalty and her friendliness and her knack of “getting down to basics” have greatly helped to establish the strong sense of belonging that many members feel. My personal congratulations, Mary — and collectively from the whole Society.

It was a pleasure to have as our guest, Mr. Heman Howard, former curator of the Dexter Estate, Heritage Plantation, Sandwich, Massachusetts. I was lucky to serve on the same judging team in the morning and I learned a great deal. His address after dinner was most interesting and accompanied with a wealth of slides of Dexter hybrids, some of which are being grown in our milder areas and which add great richness to our gardens. I found Mr. Howard most charming and I personally hope that he will join us at future shows.

Each year's Show is, for me something special — a celebration of the pleasure we have in growing beauty in our gardens, and getting to know others who share that joy. I, for one, am looking forward to 1979 when we celebrate in Nova Scotia. See you there!

The Report of Judges and Trophy winners for the 1978 Flower Show will appear in the Fall Bulletin.

CLINIC

M. H. Van Alstyne Mississauga, Ontario

In a previous issue, in an article called ‘Feeding for Flowers’ I mentioned the use of a high phosphorus fertilizer as a foliar feeding. I had a number of inquiries requesting information on commercially available formulations which would produce the desired results.

First the good news. One that I tracked down was Ortho Liquid Tomato Food (6-18-6). Upon inquiry from Chevron Chemical (Canada) Limited, I received the information that this would be suitable for azaleas as the source of nitrogen is ammoniacal. Recommended application was: 2 Tablespoons (1 oz.) per gallon, feeding every three to four weeks (but no later than mid July.)

Now the bad news! In April the Chevron Chemical warehouse in Oakville was completely destroyed in a major fire which some of you may recall. Late in June I received notice that the company was closing down the Garden and Home Division in Canada on August 15, 1978. Some garden centres may still have supplies of this fertilizer if anyone wishes to try it.

Plant Products — suppliers to growers, are now marketing their ‘Plant-Prod’ water soluble fertilizers at the retail level and supply Analysis (15-30-15) in 500g. containers. This contains chelated minor elements and we have used this for one or two June applications with good results. As the pH tends to rise following its use, a light application of ferrous sulphate afterwards is recommended.

HOW I GROW AZALEAS IN A SUB-ZERO AREA

Kenneth Duncan Don Mills, Ontario

This article first appeared in the magazine Canadian Homes & Gardens in 1959, and is reprinted here by permission of the author.

Can you grow superb hybrid azaleas in the colder parts of Canada? No, say the experts. Yes, says this Richmond Hill, Ont. nurseryman, who has over 500 magnificent specimens to prove it. What's his secret? Give them the right acid soil, a little care and a good protective mulch all year long.

KEN DUNCAN is a nurseryman and azalea enthusiast who has been growing them successfully for 13 years in an area where they're not considered hardy. Recently CH&G asked him his method, and here's what he told us:

Azaleas will give you more value and enjoyment for less trouble than any other flowering shrub. Once you have properly planted and maintained them, they become more handsome and spectacular from year to year. The wealth of bloom and variety of color is unsurpassed, and once they're in, they live and flower for generations. Once, in England, I saw a Ghent hybrid azalea which was an incredible 16 feet high and 30 feet across — and this magnificent plant was more than 100 years old.

All this is equally true, not only in the warmer parts of Canada like the West Coast, but in many colder parts such as Richmond Hill, Ont., where I live. There is a wide conviction that azaleas demand a warm, moist climate, but my experience proves this to be completely untrue.

The azaleas I grow are almost all deciduous hybrids (they drop their leaves in winter), although I am experimenting with some evergreen types — the ones that make such a show on the West Coast but difficult to grow where I live. Azaleas are part of the rhododendron family (they're called rhododendrons by botanists) and the deciduous hybrids have been developed from the nine main species: six from America (*Rhododendron arborescens*, *R. calendulacea*, *R. nudiflora*, *R. occidentalis*, *R. speciosa* and *R. viscosa*), one from Europe (*R. pontica*), one from China (*R. sinensis* or *molle*), and one from Japan (*R. mollis* or *japonica*).

I first became interested in hardy azaleas in the spring of 1946, when I was in the army in England. We needed some cut branches of rhododendron for a party in our mess, and I decided to make a deal with the gardener of a big estate not far from our camp — the place was overgrown with rhododendrons, and they all needed pruning.

After making the agreement, I asked the old gardener about the spectacular shrubs which were overflowing onto the entrance drive. I found out they were deciduous azalea hybrids. The gardener told me these shrubs needed a minimum of attention and gave a marvelous display year after year provided the soil was on the acid side. He thought I should be able to grow them in Canada, because the origin of these hybrids included many azalea species which were native to North America. So I decided to try growing them myself when I got back to Canada.

Soon after I returned to Toronto, I began to search for azaleas, but with very little luck at first. Most nurserymen snorted: "Azaleas! They'll never grow in Toronto." Eventually I located a few imported plants and eagerly snapped them up. Then I discovered the first important thing about growing them. The imported plants were grafted, and grew very poorly; I found out that "own root" plants are the only reliable ones if you want to grow them in colder areas.

I had read a few articles by American azalea experts, all of whom recommended own root plants, so I ordered some myself.

How I winter my azaleas Surprisingly enough, I do very little to ensure that my azaleas live through the winter. For the most part, I have found the deciduous hybrids hardy in Toronto, where winter temperatures go down to 15 below, and in Richmond Hill, where 20 below is not uncommon. I don't give the shrubs any protection other than a good mulch and shelter from strong winds.

I know gardeners who grow azaleas as far north as Algonquin Park in Ontario. They winter them by placing a box or barrel around the plants and filling it with light material such as dry peat or rock wool. Leaves are not good, because they tend to flatten down. Snow also makes an excellent protective mulch.

If you live in the Maritimes, you should be able to grow azaleas with ease, especially because of the moist atmosphere.

Azaleas are easy to move, and you can lift them in the fall and store them in a cool cellar — they will need to be kept moist. With this method, you can easily grow azaleas in the colder parts of the country. You can force hardy azaleas into bloom by bringing them into a warm room which isn't too bright. Keep them at about 70F. and spray them with warm water several times a day. After about three weeks, when the blooms open, put the plants in a bright window and they will take on their natural flower color.

How to grow your azaleas These are the methods I use for growing azaleas successfully. Species azaleas are woodland plants, so it stands to reason that their hybrids like the same conditions. Give them a northern or eastern exposure with light shade in the heat of the day. This way the plants bloom better, the flowers last longer and the colors don't fade. Azaleas like moist conditions, but also need good drainage. And remember that a low spot can also be a frost-pocket, so don't plant them in low ground.

Because azaleas are very shallow-rooted, avoid planting them near the roots of other large, shallow-rooted trees such as elm, maple, willow or beech. However, oak trees are good because they have deep roots, and their leaves normally have an acid reaction which makes them a fine mulch for azaleas.

Other excellent companion plants are small trees such as Japanese cherries, maples, magnolias and dogwood. Evergreens such as pine and yew will set off your azalea plantings very effectively.

When you grow azaleas, the soil must be acid reacting, rich in humus and retentive of moisture. Sandy loam suits them best, but you can give them clay loam if you break it up with plenty of peat and sand. If your soil is light, add peat and leaf mold. In most cases, I use a mixture of about half peat and half soil — this works well both in the clay of North Toronto and in the sandy loam of Richmond Hill.

To measure the acidity of your soil, you can buy a small kit which is now on the market, or send a sample to the Ontario College of Agriculture in Guelph. In technical terms, the pH factor of the soil should be not higher than 6.5 and not lower than 4.0. The "pH factor" is the phrase used when the reaction of the soil is measured in terms of the hydrogen ion concentration. A graduated scale from 0 to

14 is used, and 7 is the neutral point. All points above 7 are alkaline, and those below 7 are acid reacting. The best condition for azaleas is between 5.0 and 6.0, although I grow a number of vigorous plants at 6.5 and they bloom very well.

To lower the pH factor of your soil, i.e. make it more acid, use flowers of sulphur — but not lime sulphur or aluminum sulphate. To lower the pH factor of loam for each half point on the pH scale, add about one and a half pounds (or four cups) of sulphur for each 100 square feet of soil. For sandy soils, use about two-thirds of this. In both cases, add a cup of ferrous sulphate per 100 square feet of soil. If your soil is very alkaline, the best method is to replace it with a good mixture of acid soil and peat. Be sure to check the acidity of this mixture from time to time.

Azaleas need a mulch about four inches deep the year round. Use some organic material which will hold in moisture, protect the roots from heat and cold and eventually feed the plant. Pine needles, oak leaves, twigs and bark are all good. Well-rotted cow manure is excellent, as is peat mixed with soil. But never use peat by itself, because it dries out and becomes water-repellent.

Azaleas like a humid atmosphere. If you have a dry spell, soak the roots well once or twice a week and sprinkle the plants in the evening.

If you use a good mulch, it should provide an adequate food supply. But you can add extra plant food in small quantities before the leaves appear in the spring. I use the following mixture: 1 pound ammonium sulphate, 3 pounds high-grade superphosphate, 1 1/2 pounds potash, 1/2 pound magnesium sulphate, 1 pound flowers of sulphur, 1 pound fritted trace elements, 2 pounds well rotted manure. This formula is approximately 4-6-8 and is acid reacting. Use one pound of it per 40 square feet of soil.

You can move deciduous azaleas in early spring, or in late fall when the leaves have dropped. Soak the root balls well, and put them in at exactly the same depth as the previous planting — usually just covering the root ball. Dig a good-sized hole and fill in with a mixture of peat and soil. When the plants are in, firm the soil and water well.

Because azaleas have a very compact root system, you can move them easily. It's a good idea to plant them close together when they're small for massed color effect, and move them apart later when they've grown.

Always weed your azaleas by hand and not with a hoe, because they're very shallow rooted. The mulch should keep weeds to a minimum. After the shrubs bloom, remove the old flower heads by twisting them off at the base with your thumb and forefinger. This prevents seeds ripening and promotes formation of next year's flower buds. These appear during the summer and are larger than leaf buds.

You should prune your azaleas in early spring to improve their shape, and cut off any old wood to keep the plants vigorous.

Most azalea experts agree that grafted plants are not as reliable as own root plants. The reason seems to be that the graft union prevents the plant receiving proper nourishment and thus limits the vigor — the plant just isn't as hardy. So for best results, make sure you always grow own root plants.

What are the best varieties? I grow about 150 named varieties (or clones) of different strains. These are some of the best of them.

Ghent hybrids In the 1820s, a baker named Mortier in Ghent, Belgium, began hybridizing the species and produced a race of azaleas which flower in late May and early June. Similar varieties were developed in England on the Earl of Carnarvon's estate and by such nurserymen as Michael Waterer of Knap Hill. Eventually, these azaleas were all classified as Ghent azaleas, or in Holland, Pontica azaleas.

Ghent hybrids flower profusely, with blooms that are an inch to an inch and a half in diameter — a few are two inches. They normally grow four to six feet high and broaden with age. One exception is the 16-foot shrub in England which I mentioned earlier.

I find some of the best Ghents are these: *coccinea speciosa* (orange red); Bouquet de Flore (pink); Unique (buff orange); Nancy Waterer (golden yellow); Daviesii (white with a yellow splash); and the popular Fanny (rose pink).

There are also some double forms of Ghent hybrids. A few choice clones are: *Narcissiflora* (sulphur yellow); Bartha Lazzari (orange yellow); Quentin Matsys (deep pink).

Mollis hybrids Also known as *mollis sinensis* hybrids, these are the earliest to bloom — about the middle of May. The fragrant flowers bloom before the leaves appear, and are about three inches in diameter. The colors are mostly yellows, oranges and orange-reds, and the plants grow from four to six feet tall.

In the 1880s, the Belgians and Dutch began crossing Japanese and Chinese azalea species and have since produced a great wealth of mollis hybrids. Some that are successful where I live are the following: J. C. Van Tol (bright red); Koster's Brilliant Red (orange red); Hortulanus Witte (orange yellow); Christopher Wren or Gold-ball (huge golden yellow); Directeur Moerlands (yellow); Lemonora (apricot yellow); Queen Emma (salmon). Some of the new Felix and Dykhuis hybrids from Holland are also excellent. Benelux, a mandarin red, and Winston Churchill, reddish orange, are two of the very best I have grown.

Occidentalis hybrids These flower at the end of May and in early June. The flowers are very fragrant and the shrubs grow high. These hybrids were developed in the 1870s by Anthony Waterer of Knap Hill and by Koster in Holland. Among the varieties I grow are: Exquisita (white, flushed rose); Irene Koster (white, flushed red); and Superba (frilled dark rose).

Rustica Flore Pleno In the 1890s, the Belgians developed a variety of double azaleas with flowers slightly larger than the double Ghents. They are thought to be a cross between Ghent hybrids and Mollis. This variety is sweet-scented and blooms in June; the shrubs are tall. I have success with: Byron (white, tinged pink); Milton (white, tinged yellow); and Norma (shrimp pink).

Knap Hill hybrids The best comes last. Even though I like the older hybrids, I must confess that this group takes the cake, as far as I'm concerned. A few years ago, I visited the Knap Hill Nursery near Woking, Surrey, England, and saw endless magnificent plants. Mr. Donald Waterer, the manager of the nursery, is a

fine chap and if you're visiting England, I urge you to take a trip to Knap Hill at azalea time. You will be well received.

This strain was started by Donald's great-great-grandfather, Anthony Waterer senior, between 1850 and 1870. Since then, the nursery has continued breeding the strain, and breeders in other parts of the world have developed it. Now there are four main groups: Knap Hill, Exbury, Slocock and Iam. The most important of these are the first two.

I am now growing about 50 varieties of Knap Hill azaleas. They are hardy with exceptionally large flowers — three inches and over — and as many as 30 flowers to a truss. Double forms are also available, some with bronze-tinted foliage. According to the variety, these azaleas bloom from mid-May until the end of June, and many of them also provide handsome autumn color. These are some of the best with me: Albatross (white, suffused pink); Bullfinch (deep red); Buzzard (pale yellow, tinged pink); Gold Crest (yellow); Golden Oriole (deep yellow); Hiawatha (nasturtium red); Marion Merriman (yellow, flushed orange); Mephistopheles (red); Ruddy Duck (orange red); Sylphides (phlox pink); Toucan (pale cream with a yellow splash).

Exbury azaleas were developed about 30 years ago by Lionel de Rothschild; he hybridized some of the Knap Hill strain with *Azalea sinensis*. The flowers of his seedlings are from three to four inches in diameter and are thicker and more square than the Knap Hill types. The shrubs grow about four to six feet high and about three to four feet wide, although a few are smaller. Here is a good collection: Brazil (a very good orange red); Berryrose (large carmine with yellow splash); Cecile (hugh salmon-pink); George Reynolds (rich yellow); Ginger (orange); Golden Horn (golden yellow); and Hotspur (flame red).

Three useful books on azaleas

If you want to know more about azalea growing, here are three excellent books which you could buy or borrow from a public library: *Azaleas, Kinds and Culture* by H. Harold Hume, published by Macmillan; *The Azalea Handbook*, by the American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Road, N.E., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.; *The Azalea Book*, by Frederic P. Lee, published by Van Nostrand. ●

Editor's Note Unfortunately the books on the above list may no longer be available but may still be found in libraries. There are a number of newer publications, many of which have been reviewed in past issues of the Bulletin. New members may not be aware that members of RSC are eligible to borrow books from the Library of the Royal Botanical Garden, Burlington, Ontario.

Koster's Brilliant Red One of the very best of the Mollis group of deciduous azaleas. Plant is upright growing to about five feet; flowers are large and a striking, luminous orange-red. *Photo: M. H. Van Alstyne*



INFORMATIONAL FOLDER

To expand the scope of our membership, the need was expressed last year for a piece of informational literature describing our aims and activities, for distribution at our shows, auctions, exhibits, presentations, etc. Under the inspiration of the late Leslie Hancock, and after much consultation with, and assistance from many of our officers, past and present, the folder which you have received with this issue of the Bulletin has been produced.

With the cooperation of the Horticultural Societies Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, each of the 250 horticultural societies in Ontario will receive a copy of the folder.

Some retail nurseries and garden centres have expressed an interest in distributing information about our Society and supplies of the folder are available for this purpose.

Members are urged to make full use of this publication to enlist new members, to renew subscriptions, to solicit information and for any other suitable purpose. For additional supplies, contact any officer of the Society or of your Region.

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THE RHODODENDRON GARDEN OF ST. CATHARINES

Rudy Behring St. Catharines, Ontario

This is the story of a developing 'Rhododendron Garden' on the south-shore of Lake Ontario. The exact location is the extreme north-east corner of St. Catharines. It is best reached by crossing the Welland Canal at lock no. 1 going east on Lakeshore Rd, turning north onto Read Road and proceeding as far as the small public parking lot on the left hand side. The ponds are a short stroll due north-west. (Note: If coming from the direction of Toronto, north is left after the turn in Hamilton).

After a self-imposed exile from Montreal with its newly created Rhodo Garden at the M.B.G., it was only natural that I would be in need of an area where my upcoming large hybrids could grow undisturbed. In the fall of 1976, I approached the St. Catharines Parks Department in the hope of securing a small section in one of their parks. After stating my reasons and qualifications to manager Bob Munson, I was most surprised to be given the choice of any of ninety-three parks that the 'Garden City' administers. Panic set in, being confronted with such a large choice. On further inquiry, some of the better locations were pointed out, including a little known Bird Sanctuary. One drawback would be a chainlink fence surrounding the area but, in return, it would provide a measure of security against vandalism which is so prevalent in these times.

More out of curiosity (about this park with the chainlink fence) than anything else made me visit the 'Happy Rolph Bird Sanctuary'. One look from the caretaker's house had my head spinning. Down below the ponds and past the huge weeping willow (bed 17) was Lake Ontario. Visions of yet another 'Wisley Garden' danced in my mind. This was it, no other garden would do! Soon a preliminary plan was prepared and given to Mr. Munson, who presented it to City Hall for approval and subsequently a bylaw was passed. This 'Best of Two Worlds' agreement is presented in a separate article.

With a total area of 15 acres, the Sanctuary consists of a strip of shoreline and trees to the west, the 5.5 acres enclosed by the fence and all the orchard area east as far as Read Road. Next to the public parking is a domestic animal enclosure where the public can view and pet the animals. The old cherry orchard has been interplanted with 4000 evergreens for future development as a woodland area. Four years ago, the City bought some of the land and the house from Harry Rolph who had planted many of the large selections of trees and bushes around the ponds. The large living room of the house will be opened soon to the public in order to provide year-round sheltered viewing of wild ducks, Canada geese and the many other birds that make this Sanctuary a bird lover's paradise. The four to five foot high fence keeps dogs and the public out of the nesting area and will protect the rhodo plantings at the same time. Viewing areas are provided at various locations and for an overall view a tower is planned next to the picnic area. It should be remembered that, all vegetation is in place with just the rhodo beds to be blended in. As can be seen, from the accompanying map, the main impression that one has, are two connecting ponds with meadows blending into the bushes at the edge to the inclines. Two strips of 20' to 25' tall Austrian pines, on the inclines, give the whole area that natural look. Another weeping willow stands on an island used for waterfowl only. Varied spruces, cedars and high evergreen

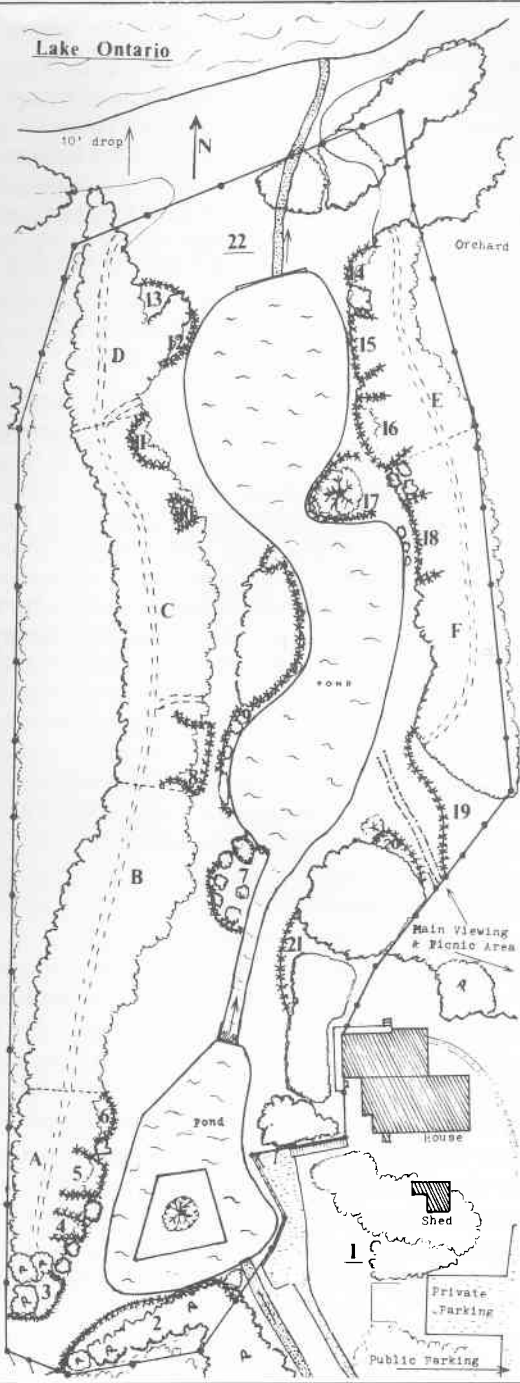
**RHODODENDRON
GARDEN
ST. CATHARINES**

Location:
Bird Sanctuary
Read Road
.....

Numerals:
Rhododendron Beds

Letters:
Sections, with path,
of pine grove (on
upper level)

Beds #: 1;7;9;
12;17;19;21;&22
are mostly for Azaleas



shrubs blend with the redbuds, flowering dogwoods, giant wild roses and 20' tall *Euonymus* bushes (fruits from white to dark red). What a sight in spring, for that matter, year round!

For the culture of rhododendrons this garden is almost ideal. Wind protection from the west is provided by the adjoining buildings of 'Potters Distillers' and a hedgerow along the inside of the fence. The pines on each incline provide additional protection. Since the city trimmed out the bottom pine branches, a partially shaded growing condition is now provided. Air drains at all times from all areas, eliminating frost pockets. The closeness of the lake insures that the temperature never drops below -20°C (-5°F) in winter, while providing cooling in summer, giving me a chance to try growing *R. arboreum*. The soil is, in most locations, sandy loam with a good layer of pine debris, with an average acidity of pH 5.25. This allows the direct digging in of rhodos, finishing with a good layer of pine mulch. Air and ground moisture are present at all times.

In designing the area as a rhododendron garden, certain criteria had to be taken into consideration. No plants were to be grown closer than six feet to the water (to allow cutting of grass), except where they could be interplanted with existing vegetation. No walking would be allowed in the meadows during breeding season (May-June, at the main rhodo flowering time) since fowl lay their eggs into the grass. This last problem has now been mainly overcome by re-establishing through clearing, a long forgotten path along the pines. This path starts now at the south-west service entrance, and ends at the main viewing area as indicated on the plan. Thus, most beds are accessible for planting and maintenance from the back. All beds without partial shade have been reserved for azaleas, with area 22 exclusively for azaleas that like swampy conditions. Bed 16 will be the nursery bed, since it is hard to view from most directions. The duck feeding area, bed 1, will be planted with common large material, since it is outside the fenced-in section. The design is such, that all large rhodos will be planted at the greatest distance from view, with medium growing ones closer up and small or dwarf types next to the fencing.

The first rhododendron, 'Direktor E. Hjelm' was planted (bed 8) during a ceremony in May 1977, attended by City officials and Mr. and Mrs. Lyall Fretz who donated that large plant. My wife, Monique planted 'Cynthia', our first plant, into bed 7 in the hope that this large growing rhodo will, in time, overhang the edge of the water. In the fall, Lyall donated more large plants which were placed in various locations. Other donations have been pledged, with the hope, that other enthusiasts will do the same. Anyone making donations will be given preferred access to the eventual harvest of material. Flower trusses taken for Shows will be entered in the name of the 'St. Catharines Rhododendron Garden'.

In the coming years, large plants will be set out into the beds with thousands of smaller ones to be grown on, in the pine groves. As the bottom pine branches die off, the rhodo beds could in time stretch the whole length of both inclines. In turn, grown on plants could be transplanted into the picnic area and the former driveway to Read Road. In short, the whole 15 acres, wherever conditions allow. In the far future, should I be so lucky to be still around, any left-over material might then be considered for other city parks. Another plan of mine would involve the

pine groves. They could be laid out as a woodland setting, full of rhodos to be opened to the public along the newly-made paths, at flowering time, on a conducted tour basis only.

It is my hope, that this rhododendron garden will serve many purposes. An extension to our garden to give a home to the hundreds of plants being grown on, a 'Display Garden' for the Niagara Region, the first 'Species Garden' and also, as a tender test garden for the National Society and a ready source of pollen, seeds and cuttings for the good of the Society.

Finally and most of all, it will be a serene and beautiful spot to enjoy nature in all its glory.

THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS

Rudy Behring St. Catharines, Ontario

On February 20th, 1978, Bylaw no. 78-61 was passed between the City of St. Catharines and myself.

By dispensing with the legal jargon, the agreement covers the following:

- 1 - The City grants permission to plant and cultivate rhododendrons upon lands in the 'Happy Rolph Bird Sanctuary' providing that a) Only in approved locations. b) Plants become the property of the city. c) If plants are no longer required by the City they shall be offered back to R. Behring for removal within a reasonable time.
- 2 - The City will not name or register any unnamed hybrids nor propagate them for distribution or for commercial purposes.
- 3 - The City grants R. Behring the right of access for the purpose of breeding, propagation and cutting of trusses for show purposes.
- 4 - The agreement shall be only to the benefit of both parties.

This is the third contract that I have entered with an institution and feel that it is by far the best for both parties. The City has ownership over all plants and gains my expertise, planting and plant maintenance at no cost.

For myself, I will not have to worry about destruction of rhodos by the City. It is also most unlikely that the Bird Sanctuary will ever be rezoned. No taxes will have to be paid and no general maintenance done. The City will also prepare beds if necessary, provide mulch from chopped-up Christmas trees and provide tags for identification. All the advantages like breeding and propagation are mine, with the important item, the naming of new hybrids left to the breeders. What else would one want?

This legal agreement might serve as a model for anyone wishing to *have* a large 'Rhododendron Garden' without the problems of *owning* it!

SOLVING CULTURAL TROUBLES OF RHODODENDRONS AND OTHER ERICACEOUS PLANTS

Alfred M. S. Pridham and Arthur S. Lieberman

Adapted from N.Y. State College of Agriculture — Cornell Extension Bulletin No. 1091

The plant family Ericaceae includes such ornamental shrubs as Rhododendron (rhododendrons, azaleas), Pieris (Japanese and mountain andromeda), Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel), Leucothoe (drooping leucothoe), Vaccinium (blueberry) and others. These plants grow best in a location protected from excessive wind and sun; in a porous, well-drained soil with high moisture-holding ability (preferably with high organic content and acid reaction); and with a mulch of good insulating quality covering the soil surface.

Certain troubles of ericaceous plants result from poor environmental conditions. To determine the problem, use the diagnostic checklist. Corrective measures are outlined in the section on each cultural problem. A checklist of problems caused by diseases and insects is also given.

SPECIFIC CULTURAL PROBLEMS

Yellow foliage (Chlorosis)

The shallow-rooted Ericaceous plants develop chlorosis when anything interferes with absorption of iron through the roots, or when iron in the plant is not in an available form.

The leaves gradually yellow except for the veins, which remain green. Symptoms range from lighter than normal green in mild cases to distinctly off-colour yellow in severe cases. These symptoms, repeated year after year, become intensified and the leaves take on a whitish cast and have dead brown areas. Eventually the leaves die and weak leaves or no leaves appear in spring. Twigs and finally entire plants die.

Symptoms of chlorosis are evident in young leaves at time of bud break and first expansion in spring as well as in fully expanded foliage. Look for them in young foliage and apply corrective measures promptly while immediate response is possible.

Physical causes of chlorosis are incorrect cultivation of the soil which destroys some of the feeding roots; no or insufficient mulch which allows the soil to heat and dry out extensively and injures feeding roots; sandy soil with too little organic matter to retain moisture or poorly drained soil that has too little oxygen.

Chemical causes include too much lime, either alone or in relation to other soluble salts; or an actual deficiency of iron in the soil.

If any of the physical causes are responsible the permanent solution to the problem is to correct the soil condition or maintenance practice. It may even be advisable to lift the plants and amend the soil. These are the necessary steps: dig out the plant; cut back the top in cases of extreme chlorosis; replant in a sheltered location in soil high in peat, topped with a mulch. Fertilize and water with urea or ammonium sulfate (or other fertilizer, including slow-release organics, in which 1/3 of the nitrogen is in the ammonium form) at rates not greater than a teaspoonful of fertilizer per gallon of water once a month during the spring and through the summer (except in cases where lush growth indicates that fertilizer is unnecessary until the following spring); and control insect pests and diseases.

If chemical causes are responsible, spray young foliage of nearly mature size in the spring with a solution of chelated iron (1/4 of one percent or 1/4 teaspoon to one pint of water). Although this is only a temporary correction, it will restore green color quickly in young leaves.

The application of chelated iron to the soil produces a longer-lasting effect than spraying the foliage. Repeated applications are often necessary to maintain attractive green foliage. The addition of chelated iron is supplemental to regular fertilizer practices for these plants. Chelated iron is not available in garden stores. Carefully follow manufacturer's recommended application rates. Spray on cloudy days or in the evening.

Browned foliage (Scorch and burning)

Because broadleaf evergreens carry their leaves all winter, they are constantly losing water to the air. If these plants are exposed to strong winds in winter when the soil is cold and the roots are inactive, water is lost faster than the roots can replace it. A similar situation is likely to occur again in the first few hot days of spring (18°-21°C) (65°-70°F) when the soil is still frozen. The symptoms are a browning or scorching of the leaves at the tip and along the outer margin, or sometimes between the midrib and the margin of the leaf blade. The affected parts tend to be reddish brown and the wood may be shriveled. Excessive drying beyond normal wilting (drooping and slight curling of the foliage) may be followed by the same browning or scorching of the leaves in summer. To prevent such difficulties:

1. Plant broadleaf evergreens in spots protected from wind and sun. Avoid southern exposures.
2. Provide evergreen plants with ample moisture, both before the ground freezes in fall, and during the growing season. In late fall (November), water the ground heavily to help prevent its drying out during winter.
3. Mulch evergreens when growth has hardened in the fall (after nonevergreen plants have dropped their leaves). Mulching will insulate the soil from sudden temperature changes, reduce the depth to which freezing takes place, and reduce the time that the ground is frozen. Root growth continues at 45°F or more. Leave mulches in place in summer for their insulation and moisture-retention value.

Azaleas and similar plants that have been mulched with sawdust or peat moss sometimes fail to develop mature stem tissue where they are touched by the mulch. Serious injury may follow in early frost. This is especially true if gardens are in low areas or frost pockets.

In these problem areas, in order for these plants to become sufficiently hardened to withstand early frost damage, move mulch materials two to three inches away from the base of the stem in mid-August. This will allow time for the bark and wood of the plant to dry and mature before early fall frosts can cause injury. Replace mulch after leaf falls from tree and add new mulch at that time.

4. Protect sensitive evergreen plants with a windbreak or sunshade. Place the plants on the lee side of less sensitive evergreen trees, or put up a shield of lath or other materials to moderate the wind and the sun's rays.
5. Where needed, during the middle of hot, early spring days, turn a sprinkler on the plant or otherwise provide windbreak or sunshade.

Snow damage

Ericaceous plants, particularly the evergreens, suffer from heavy snowfall that bends plants and breaks stems and branches. The gardener may protect the plants in late fall by providing a protective cover such as snow fence placed on 2-by-2 posts, or by brushing the snow off the plants.

A moderate amount of snow is desirable as winter protection. In fact, light dry snow may be carefully shovelled against these plants to provide insulation against winter damage from low temperatures.

Raised-bed plantings

The roots of plants set in raised beds are subject to colder temperatures at the margins of the bed than are the roots of plants set in the ground. To help prevent cold damage, build the beds at least six feet wide and mulch them thoroughly in the fall.

If it is possible to build raised beds that slope down to the soil surface, plant the slope with grass. Such beds have better winter protection than do beds surrounded by brick or similar materials.

Normal leaf drop

It is normal for older foliage to drop off during dry periods of late summer and drying weather of early spring. So long as new foliage has a good green colour, nothing need be done.

Mice and rabbit damage

Mice and rabbits often girdle the stems of plants and kill branches and twigs. See other Extension Service publications for control recommendations.

Failure to bloom

Non-blooming may result from one or a combination of the following:

1. The plant is too young.
2. Winter injury and cold injury in other seasons may have killed flower buds. When plants harden-off incompletely in early autumn, early fall frosts may kill the buds. In this condition, the buds will also be killed by sudden cold spells in November and December. During the first warm days of spring, temperature hardiness is quickly lost by flower buds as they break dormancy. A severe frost following this loss of dormancy can cause flower or parts of the flower to die.
3. The plant has insufficient sunlight.
4. Vegetative growth is excessive.
5. A normal off-year occurs in some plants; some bloom heavily one year, lightly the next, and heavily again a third year.

6. Seeds were allowed to develop the previous year. Remove the seed heads after flowering.
7. Pruning was done after flower buds formed in summer.

Cut-back and regrown plants

Occasionally older plants that have been cut-back and regrown are sold by nurseries. Top growth makes these plants look young, but further down, near the root system, the older stems are visible. If such plants have been dug and moved carefully, the root system will be satisfactory and growth will be normal. However, if the root system has been badly damaged, the plants will suffer; poor growth and possible death will ensue. Purchase young plants or regrown plants with good root systems. Buy from a reputable firm!

Chemical weed killers (Herbicides)

Fumes or minute droplets of chemical weed killers such as 2,4-D can drift from lawns to shrubs several feet away and cause distortion or curling of young leaves. When weed killers are used, careful attention must be given to spray drift. Avoid spraying on a windy day. A sprayer that has been used for weed killers should never be used for insecticides and fungicides. It is exceedingly difficult to remove certain herbicide formulations from the spray tank, hoses, nozzle, and washers.

Excessive chemicals

Fertilizers, fungicides, and insecticides applied in excessive amounts can damage plants. When applying these materials, follow the recommended rate and method of application exactly. Dog urine also may cause damage.

Normal curling of leaves in cold weather

At temperatures well below freezing, the leaves of many rhododendrons will curl and hang close to the stem. This is normal. As long as the leaves expand and resume their normal angle to the stem when warmer temperature returns, there is no need for concern (see statement on scorch).

SPECIFIC TROUBLES CAUSED BY INSECTS AND DISEASES*

Disease or Insect Symptoms

Azalea

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Lace-bug | - Yellow stipling on leaves, dark nymphs, lace-winged adults, brownish flecks on underside of leaf. |
| Leaf miner | - Leaves rolled by caterpillars |
| Whitefly | - Nymphs on underside of leaves of some varieties; sooty mold also may appear. |
| Borer | - One-inch yellow caterpillar in the twigs. Scattered dead branches. |
| Leaf and stem gall | - Leaves enlarged into thick gall. |
| Powdery mildew | - Leaves of deciduous azaleas show white mildew in late summer. |

- Taxus weevil - Notched leaves (in from margin) on lower and inner parts of the plant; also root damage and some bark girdling.
- Azalea bark scale - White cottony masses and black mold on twigs.
- Rhododendron
 - Lace-bug - Yellow stippling on leaves, dark nymphs, lace-winged adults, brownish spotting on underside of leaf.
 - Borer - Holes in bark with sawdust protruding. Scattered dead branches.
 - Dieback or Wilt - Twig dieback; fungi also may cause rotting of roots or base of trunk.
 - Taxus weevil - Notched leaves (in from margin) on lower and inner parts of the plant; also root damage.
- Mountain Laurel
 - Lace-bug - See symptoms for rhododendron.
 - Borer - See symptoms for rhododendron.
 - Leafspots - Irregular and circular light grey spots with purple-brown borders.
 - Leaf blight - Infrequent. Leaves have brownish blotches. Symptoms very similar to leaf scorch.
- Andromeda
 - Lace-bug - See symptoms for rhododendron.
 - Mites - Very fine stippling of leaves; tiny red eggs and mites on undersides of leaves.

Editor's Note

For specific controls of insects and diseases we refer once again to the publication **Insect, Disease and Weed Control in the Home Garden** (publication No. 64) (See RSC - Vol. 5, No. 1, page 20). This booklet was prepared by our own Bill Brandis. Send \$.50, payable to the Treasurer of Ontario with your request to Information Branch, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5.

REGIONAL NOTES

Atlantic Region W. Ostrom

The November 1977 meeting of the newly formed Atlantic Region focussed on propagation and winter protection. George Swain and Dr. D. Craig discussed and demonstrated propagation by seed and afterwards the flats of *RR. schlippenbachii*, *roseum*, *calendulaceum*, *vaseyi*, *japonicum* and *carolinianum* were distributed to the members.

Captain Steele discussed and demonstrated propagation by cuttings. This was followed by a discussion of mulching and winter protection. The meeting ended with the drawing for the door prizes provided by Captain Steele; healthy budded plants of 'Maximum Roseum', 'P.J.M.', and 'Gibraltar'.

Given the fact that we have a consistent attendance of 20 people to the meetings and field trips, it seems our new Region has a solid base on which to grow.

Atlantic Region Aileen Meagher

Our Spring meeting, with an attendance of about 25 people, was held at the Nova Scotia Museum on May 26th. Dr. D.L. Craig showed slides of rhodos and azaleas, indicating the average date of full bloom. He and Capt. Dick Steele spoke on general cultivation, fertilization, pest control, pruning, and answered questions.

After the Annual Meeting, to be held at Kentville on June 10, Dr. Craig will conduct a walk around the Agricultural Research Station. Capt. Steele will do the same one week later at Hall's Road, Boulderwood, Halifax.

Toronto Region Barbara Wilkins

Toronto members began their Christmas celebrations with a wonderful party at the home of Brigitte and Sid Marshall on December 17. The fire was glowing, the tree was lighted, the wine flowed and the food was plentiful as more than forty members and their friends enjoyed the Marshalls' hospitality and the opportunity to become better acquainted with each other. David Cowman brought a beautiful camelia (in bloom) with him from Oshawa, and a highlight was his brief talk explaining its culture.

February 18 was our Spring Meeting at the Civic Garden Centre, which began with a showing of "Mr. Hancock's Woods", a fitting memorial to Les Hancock. It was followed by an illustrated talk on "The Peat Garden", showing some of the many plants which can be grown with rhododendrons, from primulas and gentians to the beautiful pieris and kalmias. Fred Gallop showed some excellent slides newly added to the Slide Library, demonstrating methods of soil testing; Dave Hinton made us envious with his pictures of some rhododendron gardens in the United States; and Ken Duncan gave us practical hints on winter protection.

March 1 to 5 was the Spring Flower Show of the Garden Club of Toronto at Exhibition Park, and members in the Toronto area worked hard at setting up and manning a Rhododendron Society booth. Many people paused to admire the lovely display of plants provided by Woodland Gardens, and to request more information on their culture. A great advance from the days when everyone assumed that they were not hardy! Many thanks to all who assisted with this worth-while endeavour.

Our Plant Auction, held this year on May 3, is always a prominent feature of Spring, as is our Regional Flower Show on June 4. We hope to see many Society members and friends at the Civic Garden Centre on this occasion, to admire the blooms and to take part in the Show — competitive this year, for the first time.

Toronto Region Flower Show was most successful. Members present all participated in a judging seminar; ribbons were awarded and the winner of Best in Show received an azalea donated for the award. The Civic Garden Centre always draws good attendance of plant minded people and the reaction of the public was most gratifying. Ed.

Niagara Peninsula Region Wilf Ferguson

The Seventh Annual Show of the Rhododendron Society of Canada hosted by the Niagara Region without a doubt was the crowning event of young regional existence. The manner in which all our committees worked together was indeed a pleasure to behold. The experience we gained in setting up this annual show will prove to be of great importance in future years.

The record number of trusses entered, 316 to be exact, was a great surprise as the cool spring weather held back most of the hybrids for later blooming. The unusual part of this show was to bring to our attention the large number of seedlings and species entered. This will no doubt increase the interest in growing plants of the species which were viewed for the first time by many, including myself.

I would like to give a big thank you to Woodland Nurseries for setting up their fine display and to all members who entered trusses which created quite a problem for the judges. All these entries made our show a great success.

So to all members, National, Regional, Judges, Clerks etc. and especially to The Horticulture Research Institute of Ontario for their unlimited support and to all who were in some way involved a hearty thanks and success in future shows.

Heman Howard, the guest speaker spoke on Dexter Hybrids and their origin and presented slides of these plants in glorious color. Also we were entertained by a mysterious lady who danced between the tables with a bottle of wine in her hand and what a show she put on!

Owen Sound, Ontario "Operation Rhodo" — In the spring of 1977 twelve members of the Owen Sound Horticultural Society each received a free young (8-10") rhododendron and a pamphlet on culture and were asked to report on the progress and condition of their plant at the end of one year. All reports are in with 100% survival rate. Most have responded with doubled size in the first season and three of them bloomed this spring. Only one or two reported minor problems and all participants seemed most interested and pleased with the project, and were eagerly looking forward to the next season's progress.

Mississauga, Ontario Southern Ontario and specifically Toronto-Mississauga members will be disappointed to learn that Kathy Leishman, our immediate Past President is moving back to B.C. (where she came from originally!) She swears that she is taking all her rhodos and azaleas with her but promises not to forsake us even though she will be back where the gardening is easy! We hope that the move will be a happy one for her and her family. We will miss you, Kathy!

Vancouver, B.C. Excerpts from a letter to the Treasurer — Dec. 3, 1977...Already I see my funds sublimating in the Christmas collapse — so enclose \$10.00 to serve as my soon due renewal. I am pleased to see the Rhodo Society continues to progress...My interest in Vineland dates back. In 1907, my first visit, the first Director, Harvey S. Peart, was living in a tent, and conducting the eleven miles of tile drainage and the supervision of his residence. And fifty years later my late brother-in-law Frank Palmer prefaced his title to "The First Fifty Years" with "The Silver Cord" which I suggested from Ecclesiastics. So I have a special interest as his plan for your Society builds up into quite a mark of progress in the horticultural attainments of Canada — and long may it continue.

With very best wishes,
Roy. M. Winslow

Mr. Winslow has been a member since 1974. Ed.

SWAPS AND SELL

With this issue we test out what could possibly become a popular feature of our Bulletin, a sort of classified ads section. Many of our members find that they like to re-arrange their garden from time to time, to make room for new sorts, or to improve a colour scheme or other effect. Extras of one variety might be exchanged with another member for a different clone. Appeals for information on sources or background information on a particular variety could also appear here.

I feel that it could be a good way for members to get in touch with one another, especially for those who are perhaps too far away for direct contact at meetings. My suggestion would be to charge a small fee per line for sale offers, and I propose to present this topic at the next Executive meeting. In the meantime I should appreciate any comments or further suggestions on this column. Ed.

FOR SALE Catawbiense Grandiflorum, English Roseum, Boursault, Roseum Elegans, Purpureum Elegans and *R. fortunei*. Large spreading plants suitable for naturalized landscaping. W. Brender à Brandis, Carlisle, Ontario L0R 1H0. Tel: (416) 689-8094

FOR SALE Hybrids of Recent Un-named Crosses: White Catawbiense hybrid x *R. yakusimanum* Exbury Form (Brueckner) — white flowering, excellent foliage, 2-3 ft. *R. catawbiense compactum* x *R. williamsianum* (Brueckner) — bell-shaped mauve pink flowers, glossy, round, bullate foliage, 2-3 ft. spread. *R. chryseum* x *R. lapponicum* (Brueckner) — cyclamen pink flowers, small leaves. Bushy, upright habit. 10-20". Other hardy crosses; also tender rhodos in containers. Inquiries: J.B. Brueckner, 1436 Carmen Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5G 3Z1. Tel: (416) 274-3503

NEW MEMBERS

Armstrong, Wilfred H.
R. R. 2, Granville Ferry
Anna. Co., Nova Scotia BOS 1K0

Beach, J. A.
Beach's Nursery
4-686 Bedford Highway
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Beaupré, Luci
3620 No. 11 Rue Messier
Montreal, Quebec

Bergman, Dr. Brian
Suite 104, 150 Ontario Street
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 5K6

Berthier, Mrs. J.
333 Johnson Drive, Box 906
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario LOS 1J0

Birkett, George
Box 36
Elora, Ontario N0B 1S0

Bratley, Mr. & Mrs. J.T.
4847 Shirley Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 5B9

Briggs, Mrs. Ruth
32 Ennisclare Drive West
Oakville, Ontario L6J 4N2

Brumer, Gloria
9 Roman Road
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 4J8

Burnett, R. C.
395 7th Avenue East
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 2W8

Cameron, Mrs. Edith
P.O. Box 204
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia B0J 2E0

Carruthers, J.
17 Trafalgar Street
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 3R9

Carter, F.
P.O. Box 82, Lower Sackville
Halifax County, Nova Scotia B0N 1S0

Clark, Robert
Box 231
Beamsville, Ontario L0R 1B0

Claus, Mrs. Muriel
6 Mountainview Drive
St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 3H4

Conrad, Mrs. Mary
R. R. 3, Dayspring
Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia

Doherty, John
2094 Amiens Avenue
Windsor, Ontario N8W 1T2

Eke, Douglas
"Hawkview", Town Line Road, R.R. 1
Freelton, Ontario L0R 1K0

Fenton, William J.
7 Redwood Road
Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2V4

Flock, R. G.
1515 Lornewood Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5H 3G2

Fournier, Alice
R. R. 2
Musquodoboit Harbour,
Nova Scotia B0J 2L0

Glasbergen, John
604 Thornwood Avenue
Burlington, Ontario L7N 3B8

Harvey, Dr. J. H.
946 Richie Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3P5

Horticulture, School of, Library
P.O. Box 150
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6T2

Jewett, Grover
R. R. 2
Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia B0J 2G0

Johnson, Rhoda M.
2190 Hixon Street
Oakville, Ontario L6L 1T4

Leigh-Bell, Mrs. Joan
1302 Dunbar Place
Burlington, Ontario L7P 2J9

Le Page, Kenneth L.
862 Jackson Way
Delta, B. C. V4L 1W4

Logan, Mrs. H.
325 Cary Court
Oakville, Ontario L6J 5V7

London Horticultural Society
c/o Pauline Richards
R. R. 6
London, Ontario N6A 4C1

Macaulay, Mrs. S.
124 Clifton Road
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2G6

Marchildon, Miss Ellen
146 Humbervale Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario M8Y 3P8

Mason, Mrs. Mary
30 Briarfield Crescent
St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 3T5

McClintock, Miss Margaret
44 Glen Road, Apt. 1108
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4N2

McDiarmid, Mrs. R.C.
4388 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario L7L 1B2

McGill, James
Site 8, Compartment 37, R. R. 1
Bedford, Nova Scotia B0N 1B0

Meagher, J. T.
9 Armshore Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Miller, Mark
108 Bayview Ridge
Willowdale, Ontario M2L 1E7

Moody, Mr. & Mrs. H. G.
Box 422
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia B0J 2E0

Morrow, J.C.
1596 Chestnut Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3T2

Newcombe, Barry W.
Compartment 33, Site 50, R. R. 2
Bedford, Nova Scotia B0N 1B0

Newton, Mr. & Mrs. B.R.
R. R. 1, Cartwright Boundary Road
Nestleton, Ontario L0B 1L0

Peters, Dennis
283 Balsam Drive
Oakville, Ontario L6J 3X7

Pomeroy, Mrs.
179 Aberdeen Avenue
Peterborough, Ontario K9H 4W7

Prescott, Wm. A.
P.O. Box 545
Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0

Rawlings, Charles
12 Corinne Crescent
Scarborough, Ontario M1K 2Y8

Reynolds, Darlene
239 Hazelglen Drive
Kitchener, Ontario N2M 2E6

Richardson, Ruth
25 Widder Street West
St. Mary's, Ontario N0M 2V0

Riehm, C.
3061 Balmoral Avenue
Burlington, Ontario L7N 1E5

Rind, Charles, H.
2307 East 27th
Tacoma, Washington USA 98445

Robertson, Dr. H.
47 Okanagan Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2H 7E9

Robinson, Dr. S.C.
4 Hall's Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3P 1P3

Royce, Mr. & Mrs. Karl
Basket Neck Nursery
Ramsenburg, New York, USA 11960

Schram, Brian
2576 Portage Road
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2J 2J3

Sommerville, E.A.
Route 3, 106 Dixie Road
Woodstock, Georgia, USA 30188

Sweet, Marion D.
Hilltop Garden Club
16 Wilson Street East
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 2B4

Traverse, Ross
P.O. Box 133
Torbay, Newfoundland

Waterer, Donald
Crooked Acre Pardlestone Lane
Kelve near Bridgwater
Somerset, England

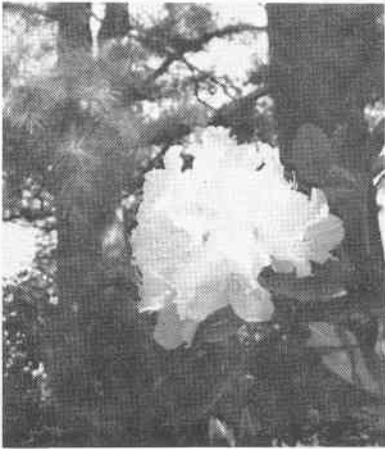
Wood, Robert
55 King Street West
Ingersoll, Ontario N5G 2J7

Woods, T. Robert
6680 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N8S 1B9

Woodstra, Mr. & Mrs. J.
36 First Street
Orangeville, Ontario L9W 2E2

Wright, John M.
6 2296 Orient Park Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1B 4N6

Canadian Grown Rhododendrons

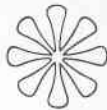


We offer for sale the largest variety of hardy rhododendrons and azaleas produced in Eastern Canada.

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

2151 Camilla Road
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada