

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Our purpose is to promote
and educate the public
about the genus
RHODODENDRON



We meet at the Couvelier
Center on the grounds of the
HCP gardens
505 Quayle Street
on the first THURSDAY
of every month
SEPTEMBER - MAY



Our website is:
www.victoriarhodo.ca





FRUIT TREES AND MORE

Bob and Verna Duncan are a couple who have long been fascinated with the idea of growing as great a diversity of temperate, citrus and Mediterranean fruit trees as local climate will sustain. Over many years they have developed the techniques necessary to successfully grow these fruits. At our March meeting, they will share their successes and lessons along this way of their incredible journey, which many may believe an impossible task.

They will provide expert advice based on first-hand experience in growing temperate, citrus and Mediterranean fruit trees. Not only will they share their incredible experiences, but will tell us novices how this can be done.

They have a demonstration orchard featuring several hundred varieties of temperate, citrus and subtropical fruit trees. They also sell their produce of Japanese fruit – Yuzu, Sudachi and Kabosu and yellow and green Kiwi. It is sometimes difficult to believe all this could be happening in the Greater Victoria area.

Not only do they sell produce from their orchard, but citrus trees, fig trees, and subtropical fruit trees. They are located at 724 Wain Road, and open 10 to 4 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Friday and Saturday. To contact them, please phone: 250-656-4269 or email at bvduncan@FruitTreesAndMore.com



yuzu



kabosu



sudachi

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



I took a walk about in our garden recently and found the snowdrops are finishing their bloom time, but then yellow crocus are still putting on a display. Our first daffodils are blooming and our hardy cyclamen is still in flower. The tree peony is starting to break bud and the pussy willows are starting to show white catkins. It is time for me to give the rhododendrons a bit of fertilizer and to pot up many of my rhododendron seedlings. Walking in the garden is helpful in showing the advancement of the seasons.

I now see the results of the -15 C that was recorded on our temperature gauge. This means a further culling of my rhododendron seedlings because of their damaged leaves. As a hybridizer, the growing of seedlings satisfies my curiosity of “what if I cross this with that”. Of course, researching and armchair hybridizing is important rather than serendipitous action, but I must admit that I have tried some crosses on a whim. Even as a child I was intrigued by flower buds opening and the color changes they go through to full opening. It is an uplifting Zen thing. You can surmise that spring is my favorite season.

I would like to thank all the previous board members for their contributions of time and energy in the operation of our club. Thank you, Lois for all the years you were coordinator of the club newsletter and your willingness to continue on until a new coordinator is elected. Medical issues tend to arise as one gets older. As members age, we need younger members to volunteer, with new energies and ideas to make our club a vital organization. Being on the board is a commitment of approximately one hour per month. Board meetings are held via ZOOM which means one can volunteer from home.

The board has voted to provide members with treats to go along with coffee and tea. We encourage interactions with one another after the meetings. Remember to bring your mugs.

Our AGM meeting will be held after our speaker. Another plant raffle is welcomed.

VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



THE VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY HAS MUCH TO OFFER



EXCLUSIVE PLANT SALES



GARDEN TOURS



TRUSS COMPETITIONS



PLANT RAFFLES AT EVERY MEETING



CONFERENCES



PICNICS



FUN AND FRIENDSHIP



KNOWLEDGEABLE SPEAKERS



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

ENTERING TRUSSES FOR A RHODODENDRON TRUSS SHOW

EVIE COWLES, MASS. CHAPTER OF THE ARS



Perfect condition is essential. This means healthy, unblemished foliage to set off the florets. Think of the leaves as a frame on a picture. The large-leaved variety is presenting as a truss on a perfect circle of leaves.

Blossoms should be open, but not over-mature. One with a closed bud is preferable to another with florets on the point of dropping.

Rhododendrons benefit from a 24-hour hardening off to prevent wilting during the show. The stem is trimmed before plunging the truss up to its neck in lukewarm water. Set the truss in a cold, draft free spot for 24 hours.

Before the truss is placed on display, make certain to make a fresh cut on the stem base.

Very early varieties can be shown if they have been kept in cool storage. Blow into a plastic bag and insert the truss so that no plastic is touched by the tissues

It is best to fill empty pop or beer bottles and bring the trusses to the show standing up.



RHODODENDRONS WITH ATTRACTIVE FOLIAGE

ADAPTED FROM ENCHANTED GARDENS
JOE BRUSO



April and May are a delightful palette of colors in Victoria during the peak of rhododendron season. For most people, the rhododendrons become bushes after that and make an ideal background for other flowering plants. Fortunately, those of us who love this genus, the attractive new growth and foliage are just as interesting and as beautiful as the blooms.



For some rhododendrons new growth can rival the blooms themselves for color and attractiveness. It can be equivalent to a second bloom period. For such plants, attractive color and texture can be seen in new shoots, the bracts on those shoots and hairs and the stems and leaves. The bracts are modified leaves that originate as inner bud scales protecting dormant buds. When the buds begin to grow, the bracts expand to look like small leaves, becoming very colorful, typically pink to bright red. The bracts are temporary, withering and falling off as new growth continues to expand.



Large leaves



Round leaves



Foliage shape and size are another delight for rhododendron lovers. A number of rhododendron species and hybrids have distinctively shaped leaves. At their extremes, leaves can range from perfectly round to extraordinarily long and narrow.

Some rhododendrons are purchased for leaf size and shape only. Others are admired and purchased for their hairy leaves. Attractive hairs on stems and foliage is another exciting reason for foliage beauty. Colors range from pure white to silvery, muted burgundy and blue-green. If seen on the top of the leaf it is called tomentum. These hairs can last for several months with rain gradually wearing them off. The underneath hairs are called indumentum and the colors are intense.



Narrow leaves



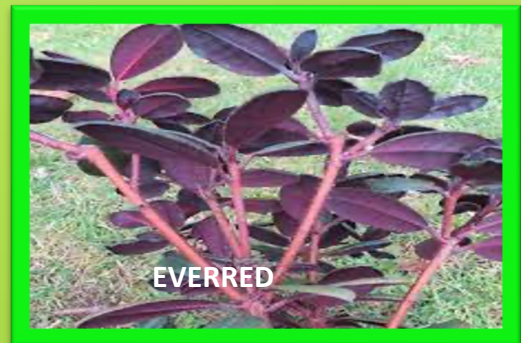
Indumentum



A selection of the species *R. neriiflorum* called 'Rosevallon' maintains red leaf undersides throughout its life. This trait is passed onto a high percentage of its hybrid offspring.



Tomentum



Rosevallon hybrid



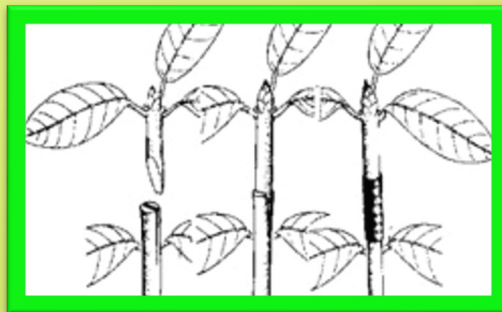


GRAFTING RHODODENDRONS



Adapted from *Rhododendron Basics*
Harold Greer

Grafting is a different vegetative method of propagation. This method takes a difficult to root cutting and grafts it to an already rooted plant. There are many methods of grafting and times of the year that it can be done.



In the spring just before growth starts, take a cutting and prepare it similarly to when taking a cutting for propagation, only this time cut the bottom end of the cutting into a long “V” shape. Then take the plant you are using as understock and cut a slit about the length of the “V” you cut on the cutting. This slit can be either at the tip of the limb of the understock (top grafting) or into the side of the limb (side grafting). It is important that it should be in wood where the bark is still green. Be certain to match the cambium layers on both sides. In a pinch, one side will do. Tightly wrap the two together with tape so there is no movement.



BLACK MAGIC



BLUE LAGOON



CHEYENNE



PLATINUM PEARL



WARM GLOW



VERY BERRY



PLUM BEAUTIFUL



WHITE GOLD

LACE BUG AND OUR WARMING CLIMATE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



AZALEA LACE BUG



RHODODENDRON LACE BUG

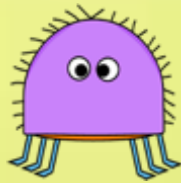
Our weather in the past two springs has been warmer and drier than normal, creating favorable conditions for lace bugs. It appears that rhododendrons and azaleas are becoming more and more to be the hosts for these pests. They are becoming a particular problem in the Pacific Northwest because of our mild climate. Cold weather rarely kills off lace bugs in any of their stages.



Look for yellow pinpoints or stippling in the leaves. Heavily damaged leaves appear yellow. Lace bugs are about 1/8 inch long. They have clear wings with dark blotches in a lacy pattern. Eggs appear as black or brown dots on the underside of the leaves. Nymphs look like tiny, clear, yellow or black spiky things.

There are several species of lace bugs. The azalea lace bug is more difficult to control than the rhododendron lace bug. It has multiple generations per year, so it is much more damaging and harder to manage. Our trend toward hot, dry summers has exacerbated problems with lace bug.

HOW TO MANAGE LACE BUGS



1. Keep your plants well watered. Drought-stress plants are prime targets for lace bugs. Stressed plants often emit distress signals that many damaging insects pick up on. Water slowly and deeply to reach the entire root zone. When watering, be certain to let the soil partially dry out before watering again.
2. Look for and destroy eggs and nymphs in the spring. Using a nontoxic spray such as horticultural oil, insecticidal soap and neem-based products to coat the leaves well, including the underside. Repeat regularly. Early season control is very important.
3. Insecticidal soaps and oils must directly contact the insects to control them. They work best on newly hatched nymphs but can have a 80-90 percent control if used correctly. Horticultural oil can smother the egg stage.
4. Chemical insecticides kill important pollinators and beneficial insects that kill other pests.
5. Add plants to encourage beneficial insects. A number of insects eat lace bugs. These include spiders, green lacewings, earwigs, lady beetles, soldier beetles, assassin bugs, pirate bugs, tree crickets and mites.
6. One can attract other beneficial insects by planting flowering plants such as sweet alyssum, angelica, mallow, cosmos, and Queen Anne's lace.
7. Apply mulch in spring and fall when the soil is moist and cool. Mulch keeps moisture in and prevents shrubs from drying out.
8. Encourage beneficial insects by planting low-growing plants such as grasses, heathers, salal, epimedium and other green perennials.
9. Shade tolerant shrubs to plant include: Pieris, japonica, Oregon grape, red flowering currant, kalmia, hydrangea, osmanthus and daphne.





HERITAGE MUSEUMS & GARDENS



MASON BEE (ANTHIDIUM)

Builds nests from a mix of conifer, resin, plant hairs /mud



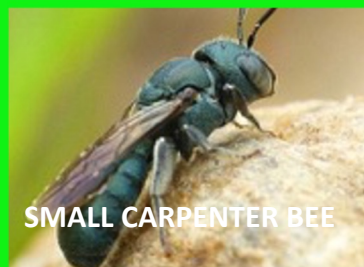
LEAF-CUTTER BEE

Nests in hollow twigs, natural cavities, lined with chewed leaves



MASON BEE (HERIADES)

Nests in ground burrows and twigs



SMALL CARPENTER BEE

Builds nests in stems of dead broken pithy plants



LARGE CARPENTER BEE

Burrows in deadwood, bamboo or structural timber



YELLOW MASKED BEE

Nests in dead twigs or plant stems



SWEAT BEE

Burrows into wood



MASON BEE (HOPLITIS)

Diverse among species
Pithy stems with leaf pulp, pebbles, holes in wood, holes in soils made by other insects, nests of pebbles, soil, saliva



MASON BEE (OSMIA)

Burrows in soil, hollow stems, sometimes in clay

The hum of the bees is the voice of the garden





BEE AND BUG HOTELS

Bee hotels are the insect equivalent of a birdhouse. They are also known as bee condos, bee houses or nest blocks. These structures provide nesting spaces for certain solitary bees and wasps. These species would ordinarily nest in hollow plant stems, holes in dead wood or other natural nooks and crannies. A bee hotel simulates this nesting habit by providing a bundle of hollow reeds or stems, or holes drilled into wooden blocks. A project like this will provide a valuable habitat for pollinators and other insects.

HOW TO MAKE A BUG HOUSE: A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

Ensure that all wood is natural and untreated. Looking around your garden is a great place to start. Then create a strong framework. Old wooden pallets or an open wooden box will do. Choose the size that fits your garden. Just make certain that all wood is untreated. Place pieces of wood to create individual sections within the frame. Then fill the gaps using different materials. Such materials include dead wood and loose bark, holes and small tubes made of bamboo and reeds, dry leaves, sticks and straw, corrugated cardboard, etc. Bug and bee hotels can be made from a plastic buckets and tin cans as well. Here are some examples for you to think about.



SURPRISES WHEN MAKING HYBRID RHODODENDRONS WITH THE SAME PARENT CROSS



POLLEN PARENT

MAVERICK



SEED PARENT

TIA

X

This occurs when the same parents are used to make the cross and each seedling comes out differently.

Look at the edges of the petals on **Tia** and compare them with **Kera**

Look at the flare on **Maverick** and the flare on **Kera**



CHILD #1

KERA



CHILD #2

MELLOW SUN



ARMCHAIR TRAVEL FOR SPRING

VISITING THE SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN IN FEDERAL WAY



Spring is the most colorful time of the year at the Species Foundation as that is when the majority of rhododendrons are in bloom. In addition to rhododendrons, the spring highlights include primroses, peonies, magnolias, lilies and more. Here are some of the delights for your viewing.



R. schlippenbachii



Arisaema sikokianum



Matteuccia struthiopteris



Meconopsis



P. huanum



P. mairei



Magnolia sargentiana



Primula denticulata



R. degronianum ssp. *yakushmanum*



FERTILIZING RHODODENDRONS

Adapted from www.rhododendron.org



In fertile soils rhododendrons and azaleas can be grown well without receiving further fertilizer. However, if plants are mulched with something like fresh sawdust or wood chips, there will be a nitrogen demand caused by the decomposition of these materials, and unless nitrogen is added, the plants are likely to show yellowish foliage and poor growth. In this case a fertilizer such as ammonium sulphate should be added. It is safer to use mulches other than fresh saw dust or woodchips.

For rhododendrons planted in less fertile soils, a complete fertilizer designed for acid-loving plants may be applied in late winter or early spring. Be careful to use only amounts recommended for rhododendrons and azaleas which normally require less fertilizer than plants such as grasses and vigorous shrubs. In cold climates, nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied after late June as it may promote lush growth susceptible to winter damage. Recent research indicates that plants reasonably well supplied with nutrients including nitrogen are more resistant to low temperatures than those that are starved.

Phosphorus in fertilizer tends to favor early production of flower buds. If your soil is deficient in phosphorus and since phosphorus does not readily move through the soil, phosphorus should be incorporated into the soil at planting time if needed.

Magnesium in the form of epsom salts is sometimes recommended for rhododendrons. Magnesium is an essential element and lack of it will cause yellowish areas between the leaf veins on older leaves. If the leaves are a solid green the addition of epsom salts would not be useful.

Lack of iron causes much the same symptoms as lack of magnesium, but with the younger leaves showing yellowing between the veins. Iron deficiency is frequently because of a high soil PH. This can occur when mortar or mortar building debris is in the soil near the roots. A soil test should be performed to see whether high PH is a problem. If the PH in the soil is too high the soil should be acidified. For a quick but temporary solution, ferrous sulfate can be added to the soil or chelated iron can be sprayed on the foliage.



A TASTE OF FINNISH RHODODENDRONS



RHODODENDRONS HYBRIDIZED BY KRISTIAN THEQVIST



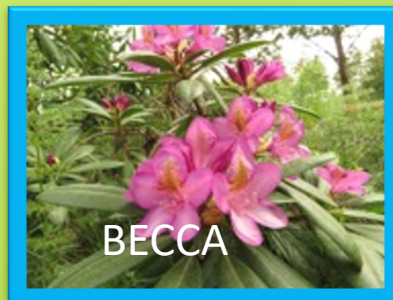
Kristian Theqvist is a retired researcher and a former director in the semiconductor industry. His passion for rhododendrons is evident. Since 2002, he has meticulously created approximately 800 crosses, showcasing his passion for hybridization as his field of expertise. His hybrids are expertly produced by a renowned Nursery in Poland and 1000s are sold annually in Northern Europe.

Kristian is very active in the rhododendron community. He has been president of the Finnish Rhododendron Society as well as President of the Finnish Chapter of the ARS. His scholarly articles are often found in the ARS Journal. He has spoken at many international rhododendron conferences and conventions in Europe and North America. His knowledge about rhododendrons is vast and his audiences are captivated by his knowledge.

While Kristian lives in Turku, he has built a comfortable weekend home on the island of Korpo. It is here that he has built his azalea and rhododendron garden. Korpo is 60 degrees north of the Earth's equator. Temperatures range from 1 degree in January to minus 2 degrees in February. In Canada, the 60th parallel forms the southern mainland boundary of Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut.



ANNUSKA



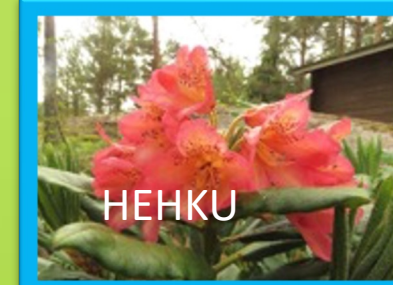
BECCA



ELJA



ELSIE MARIA



HEHKU



HENRIKA



KASPER



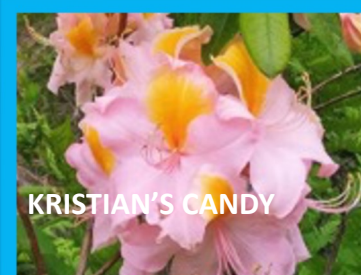
KERTTU



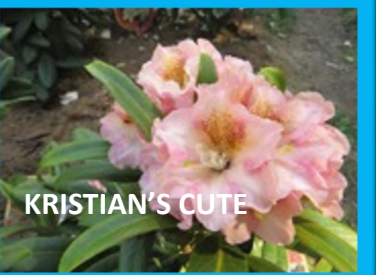
KRETLINI



KRETLIN'S SISTER



KRISTIAN'S CANDY



KRISTIAN'S CUTE



KRISTIAN'S DROPS



KRISTIAN'S MONARCH



KRISTIAN'S MOONLIGHT



KRISTIAN'S PINK



KRISTIAN'S SUNSHINE



KULTU



KUUNKELTA



KL\YLLIKKI



LOISTO



TO KRISTIAN'S GARDEN



PATH TO THE GAZEBO, WITH R. SMIRII



AZALEAS ALONG THE AZALEA TRAIL IN SUMMER



JAPANESE BRIDGE TO THE ISLAND OF THE POND



IRON ARCHWAY LEADS TO THE WOODEN PATHWAYS



1000 GALLON POND ON AN I ISLAND



AREA FOR SPECIES RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS



**Collecting pollen from flowers of
R. falconeri x *R. macabeanum*.**

This photograph of Kristian was taken by Timo Helkio, at Glenarn Gardens, Argyll, Scotland. It is a private garden owned by the Gibson family. The garden was originally made famous for its collection of species. It survives as a complete example of a ten-acre garden which spans from 1850 to the present day.

The Gibsons were early hybridizers of the big-leaved species – *R. sinogrande*, *R. macabeanum*, and *R. hodgsonii*. These original crosses are now mature trees, covered in flower from mid-February onwards.

It is to be noted that Kristian uses organza bags to protect the stamens from accidentally being pollinated by bees or other insects. Other hybridizers use plastic bags as protection devices.

The truss on the right has the stamens protected with microsurgical tape.



Emasculating and protecting flower buds of 'Helsinki University' before bees can get to the flowers.





Pollinating the stigmas of *R. aureum* x *R. viscidifolium*



Showing the importance of protecting pollinated trusses

Propagation from tissue culture to C5





Kristian Theqvist / 22.1.2024 / a short report with some photos

I had a two-day visit to the nursery in Poland last week, where my rhododendron varieties are produced. I engaged in fruitful negotiations with the company's directors. The planned startup production volumes have more than doubled, and I will be introducing five new varieties into tissue culture, two of them deciduous azaleas. I've attached some photos capturing various stages of the production process, including the isolation phase in tissue culture, the placement of microcuttings on trays, microcuttings growing in trays in the laboratory, plants in M40 trays in unheated hoop houses and finally in C5 pots on plant fields.

The production cycle, overall, is remarkably short, taking only three years from microcuttings to budded plants in 5-liter pots available in plant shops. Some varieties may require an additional year to develop flower buds.

Here's a breakdown of the production process:

1. In the first year, microcuttings are cultivated in a laboratory and planted in M40 trays during the spring, showing robust growth throughout the summer in the hoop house.
2. In the second year, they are transplanted in early spring into 5-liter pots and then moved to open plant fields.
3. By the third year, the plants have grown into fully budded specimens, ready to be sold in plant shops the following spring.

	
'Kristian's Monarch' in tissue culture	'Petteri' in tissue culture
	
Picking and placing of microcuttings in trays	'Martti' microcuttings growing in a tray in the laboratory



GROWING CAMELLIAS

Adapted from **GARDENIA**
CREATING GARDENS

A common myth about Camellias is that they are very fussy and difficult to grow. Camellias are exceptionally care-free plants if they are given a well-chosen site. They are much like our beloved rhododendrons. They like dappled shade, consistently moist, acidic, organically rich, well-drained soils. Provide a site sheltered from cold dry winds, apply a root mulch and protect from early morning sun and direct hot summer afternoon sun. Older camellias can thrive in full sun when mature enough to have their roots shaded by a dense canopy of leaves.

Pruning is rarely needed as most plants develop an attractive shape naturally. If pruning is necessary, it should be done just after blooming to avoid removing next year's buds.

Pick up blooms that drop to minimize petal blight.

Spring planting, rather than fall, is recommended as this will give the plant more time to get established before the hard freezes.

Fertilizing is unnecessary, but a light application in spring will increase growth. Excessive or late feeding can lead to bud drop. Some flower bud dropping may occur as many camellias set more buds than they can open.

Camellias are susceptible to some viruses and fungal diseases, including leaf spots, anthracnose, black mold, petal blight, canker and root rot. Watch for aphids, planthoppers and spider mites.

Plant at least five feet away from other plants to allow good air circulation and prevent competition for water while becoming established.

THE IMPACT OF PHYTOPHERA RAMORUM ON CANADA



NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, CANADIAN FOREST SERVICE VICTORIA B.C.
CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY, PLANT HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT TOTTAWA, ONTARIO
CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY, PLANT HEALTH, VICTORIA B.C.
JANUARY 2024...adapted

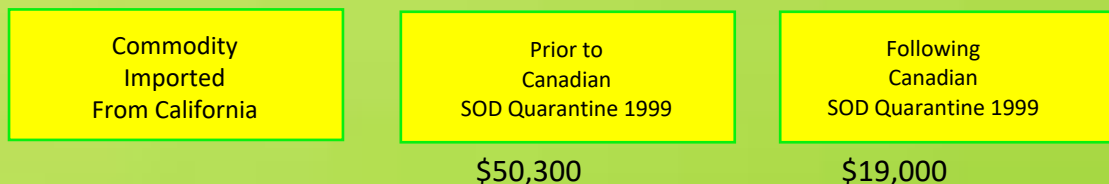


To date, neither Sudden Oak Death (SOD) nor its causal agent *Phytophthora ramorum* has been detected in Canada, despite 2 years of concerted effort by Canadian regulatory and scientific authorities. Nonetheless, economic consequences for Canadian governments and industries can be attributed to the discovery of SOD in California and the subsequent regulatory activities undertaken to protect Canadian resources from this potentially devastating disease.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal body responsible for phytosanitary issues in Canada, first saw reports of SOD in California in the fall of 1999 and soon after published a pest alert for on the disease. Through 2000, as reports of the disease spreading within California grew, so did concern within and outside the US. It was recognized that trade in horticultural and forest product originating in infested areas could spread the disease. In 1999, before any regulatory controls were established for SOD, Canada imported early 1.9 million live plants from California, presenting potential pathways for introducing the pathogen to new areas. In light of the possibility that these imports could introduce *P. ramorum* to Canada with potentially serious consequences, regulatory controls were considered necessary.

In March 2001, Canada imposed import restrictions on commodities deemed to be high risk and originating from areas in the US and Europe known to have the disease. These include all propagative and non-propagative material including nursery stock, logs with bark, lumber, bark mulch, acorns, sawdust, pulpwood and firewood, and all species of oak, tanoak and **rhododendron**.

These quarantine actions have had economic impacts. Canadian importers and distributors of propagative plant material have found it hard to obtain desired products from some traditional sources as a result of controls or prohibitions. The horticultural industry, particularly in BC, is the key sector being affected by import regulations. Some nurseries estimate that sales of \$250,000 were lost when access to propagative material was restricted.



THE GARDEN IS CALLING...YOU ARE NOT ANSWERING



HERE IS A LIST OF WHY YOUR GARDEN IS NOT PERFECT

PLEASE USE AT ANY TIME...FREE OF CHARGE

Thank you to Scott Beuerlein for some of these suggestions



If you need to explain why the garden is not perfect every time a visitor steps foot in it, please feel free to use any of the following:

#1. The weather ... any kind of weather is just great. ..too hot, too cold, raining, snowing, freezing, etc. You should have been here last week.

#2. Weeds ... Despite all my blood, sweat and tears and all the terrible things I have done to them, how is it that they have such a stubborn will to live? You should have been here last month

#3. The Montreal Canadians ... Every game needs my full attendance in front of the TV. Unless I am watching and coaching from afar, they may lose. (substitute any sport team or soap opera)

#4. I am too focused on rhododendrons. Their beauty exceeds all expectations and I get lost looking at individual plants and making plans for the next season as to what needs to be done. Sorry.

#5. My job. Since retirement, I have so many household chores to do. My partner loves that I help around the house. I take out laundry, even folding sometimes and I have been known to cook a meal.

#6. The government. I do not know why, but I think that is why we have government. We can find some regulation that makes gardening unlawful. I will let you know the regulation ASAP.

#7. I am a pillar of wishful thinking. I get carried away and make off-the-rail decisions. I am a master of "it's good enough for now".

#8. I am too focused. I focus on everything at once. Why finish only one task when I can be stress-testing myself on the multitasking treadmill.

#9. My soil. Actually it is pretty good. But all gardeners seemingly have "terrible soil". Use this one in a 'pinch', especially if your have just laid down fresh bark mulch.

#10. The deer ate it.





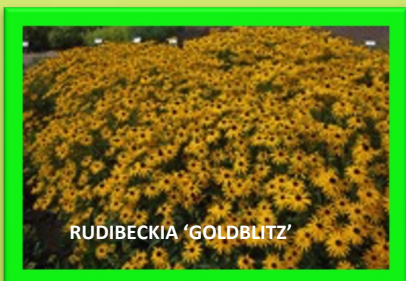
WORK SMARTER _____ NOT HARDER

BY USING PERENNIALS FOR COLOR

ADAPTED FROM GREENHOUSE PRODUCT NEWS



THESE PERENNIALS HAVE A FOCUS ON FLOWER BRIGHTNESS, PRESENTATION AND COLOR
NEW IN 2023



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

ADAPTED FROM

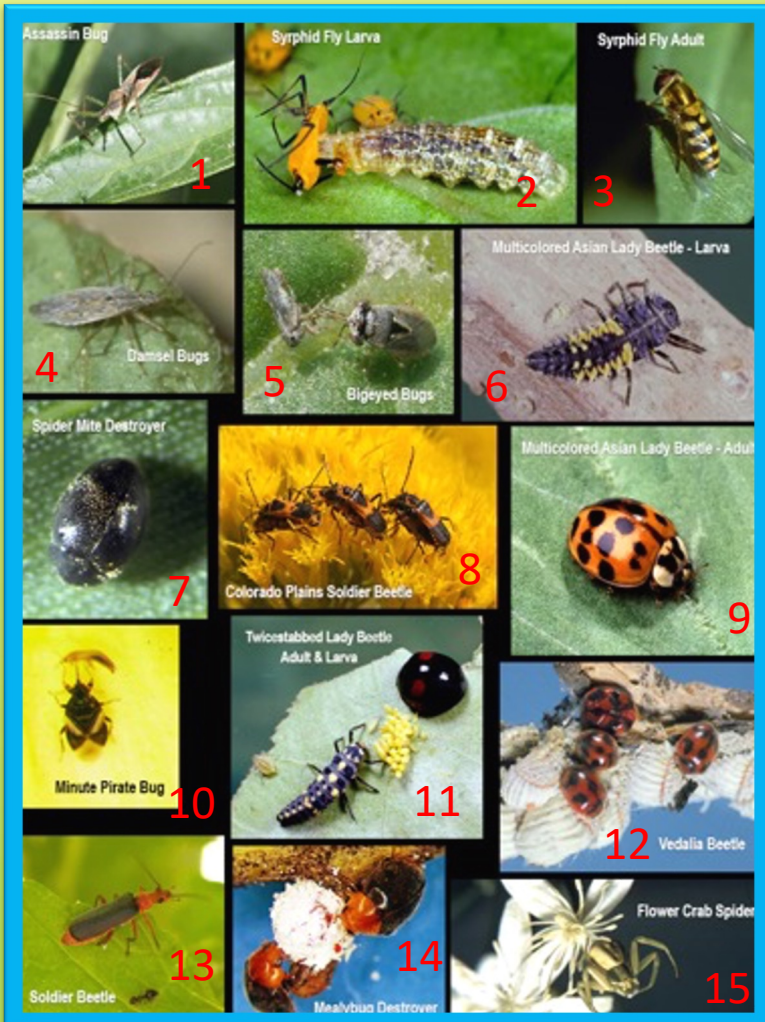


Good bugs like lady bugs, are well known to gardeners as helpers in the garden who eat soft bodied bad bugs like aphids. However, there are quite a few good bugs in the garden that are not as familiar. Many are not well known, but it is important to know who your “friends” are.

There are basically 3 groups of natural enemies – parasites, pathogens and predators. Parasites live and feed in or on a host but do not always kill the host. Pathogens are microscopic organisms like bacteria that can infect or kill an insect. Predators are insects (varying life stages) that feed on other insects. These are our friends in the garden.

Predator bugs are in our yards and in our gardens feeding on the bad bugs. Many we do not recognize or know much about them. Here is further information about the “good bugs”.

DON'T SQUISH ME.



1. Assassin bugs eat caterpillars, leafhoppers, aphids, earwigs.
2. Syrphid larvae feeds on aphids and other soft body insects.
3. Syrphid flies are good pollinators.
4. Damsel Bugs prey on thrips, mites, aphids, small caterpillars, and leafhoppers.
5. Big-eyed bugs prey on small caterpillars, flea beetles, mites, and insect eggs.
6. Asian Lady Beetles feed mostly on mites.
7. Spider Mite Destroyer. is shaped like a Lady Bug, eats mites and mite larvae
8. Soldier Beetle with over 100 species mostly in California eats aphids.
9. Lady Bugs
10. Minute Pirate Bugs, both adults and larvae eat insect eggs, psyllids, thrips, mites, aphids, whiteflies and small caterpillars
11. Twice-stabbed Lady beetle larvae and adults feed on scale.
12. Vedalia Beetle feeds on citrus scale.
13. Soldier Beetle feeds on aphids.
14. Mealybug Destroyer adults and larvae feed on mealybugs
15. Flower Crab spiders and other spiders are great predators of many differing insects.

ALL ABOUT DAHLIAS

ADAPTED FROM PHOENIX PERENNIALS
A NEW ZEALAND SITE



It is hard not to love dahlias. They are bold and cheerful and come in a wide range of colors, forms and sizes. Some cultivars have flowers just two inches wide while others offer flowers 8, 10 and even 12 inches wide. They come in every color of the rainbow except for true blue and many flowers are bicolored or even tricolored. Some plants grow only 1 foot high while others tower at 6 feet. They bloom over a long period in the summer and love the heat. For Canadians, lifting and storing over winter is a must.

The wild species of dahlia (42) are native to Mexico and Central America. The dahlia is the national flower of Mexico. They are member of the Aster family and are related to Black-eyed Susan, Echinacea, Zinnia and Sunflowers. The Aztecs used Dahlia tubers as a food source, medicine and used the hollow stems as pipes.



DINNER PLATE
8-12" WIDE
STEMS 4-6 FEET



BURGUNDY LEAF
RICH BURGUNDY, CHOCOLATE
AND NEAR BLACK FOLIAGE
EARLY BLOOMERS



DECORATIVE
BLOOMS BROAD, FLATTENED
CURVED PETALS
MEDIUM TO LARGE



CACTUS
LARGE, DOUBLE BLOOMS
NARROW, POINTED RAY FLORETS



FIMBRIATA
LARGE, DOUBLE BLOOMS
NOTCHED TIPS TO RAY FLORETS



MIGNON AND COLLARETTE
SMALL SINGLE OR SEMI-DOUBLE
BLOOMS
FLOWERS IN EARLY SUMMER



BALL AND POMPOM
SPHERICAL DOUBLE BLOOMS
BLUNT OR ROUNDED TIPS
POMPOMS HAVE MINIATURE
FLOWERS
BALL TYPES ARE LARGER



ANEMONE
SMALLER TO MEDIUM SIZED FLOWERS
A CENTRAL RUFF OF SMALLER FLORETS
OFTEN A DIFFERENT COLOR

Dahlias prefer full sun in rich, well-drained average to sandy soils., although they are tolerant of clay soils that have added organic matter. To get the most flower power out of your tuber, make certain to provide rich compost and provide an organic fertilizer with a higher middle number.

Dahlias should be lifted after the first hard frost. Knock off soil and dry in perlite or vermiculite in a frost free location .Check periodically for rot. If grown in pots, leave the tubers in the pots over the winter as long as one is able to get the soil to dry out.

A SIMPLE TRICK FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTAINER GARDENS

ADAPTED FROM HORTICULTURE - MEGAN SHINN



A container gardens offers a creative outlet for many gardeners. It offers the chance to mix and match plants by color, shape and habit without a long-term commitment. In the photo, each container holds just one type of plant.

1. Using single pot plants, **the maintenance is simplified**, making it easier to cater to the plant's particular needs.
2. The **visual appeal** of each plant is magnified.
- 3 Groups of plants can **play up contrasts**.

One can make gorgeous mixed containers by combining different types of plants within one pot. Some cautions are necessary when choosing a mixture of plants in one container.

1. **The plants you combine in one pot** need to have the same requirements for sunlight, watering, drainage and fertilizing.
2. **The plants you combine should** have roughly the same rate of growth and vigor, or else one plant may quickly overwhelm the others.
3. **If one plant fails** at any point in the season, one needs to find a plant to fill the void.
4. **You need to choose plants that will remain beautiful** from planting time until frost or be willing to replace them in summer and fall.



ALL ABOUT FLOWER SHOWS



A HISTORY OF THE VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

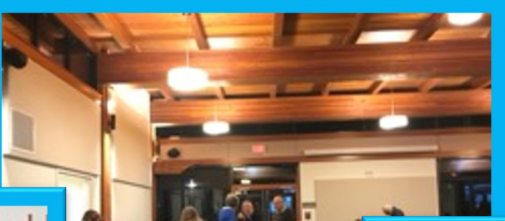
A public rhododendron truss show is a way to showcase the wide varieties of sizes and colors that are available in the world of rhododendrons. People attending and viewing such an event become educated about our favorite plant. It provides a wonderful opportunity not only to display our finest specimens, but also allows the viewers to become more aware of the scope and breadth of what plants are available other than what is sold in commercial nurseries. This year our show will be open for the public to become part of this event.

The first go-round of truss shows that I remember started at the Cadboro Bay United Church. It was a massive affair for our group. Display steps needed to be set up, sellers from the mainland and Vancouver Island came early Saturday morning, plants were unloaded and placed where that particular seller's area was located, judges arrived just after dawn to do the judging and then the winning trusses were set aside for all to see. People lined up at the door to get the "bargains". That afternoon the whole process was repeated, only in reverse. This process became one of major events of the year. Prizes and trophies were awarded to the owners of the best truss in several categories. although several of the trophies have 'disappeared' over time. Eventually the rental of the church space became unmanageable.

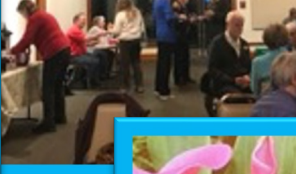
The next process occurred several years ago when we decided to try something new. We moved the truss show to the Couvelier Center on the grounds of the HCP. The format of judging was also new. Members prepared their trusses as usual and placed them accordingly. Each member was given beads that correctly matched the number of categories. Once all entries were placed, the members strolled amongst the entries and placed a bead where, in their judgment, the best truss were displayed. Instead of trophies, winners in each category received a bottle of wine at our annual picnic.

This year we are trying a new format. This event will become more public oriented. It is being held at the Couvelier Center on the grounds of the HCP and it will be a "non-judged" show. On Friday, May 10, in early evening the display tables will be placed and members will bring their trusses and place them on the correct category table. On Saturday, May 11, from 10am to 4pm, the public is being invited to the gardens and given the opportunity to view our display and to purchase plants.

Another new twist to this ongoing development is that we are selling our own propagated plants. For some years now, Ken and Madeleine Webb have given our society the opportunity to place cuttings in their propagator, before moving them into the Norm Todd Propagating Center for further growth. This is a new venture for the Victoria Rhododendron Society.



Garden in a Changing World



The Lawn quickly became a status sy



JEFF DE JONG
"THE GARDEN IN
A CHANGING
WORLD"

FEBRUARY 2024

THANK YOU NADINE



THANK YOU
CALVIN

“HAVING COFFEE AFTER THE MEETING”

BILL AND THERESA ENJOYING THE BENCH BUILT BY IAN



PLANNING AHEAD...

YOUR FIRST PEEK AT OUR SHOW AND SALE



SET UP CREW AT 2 PM. ON FRIDAY, MAY 10

ENTRIES ACCEPTED FROM 5 PM. UNTIL 8 PM., MUST BE SHOW READY

PRE AND POST SHOW HELP DUTY IS ONE HOUR

VASES DISTRIBUTED AT APRIL MEETING

GATES ON SATURDAY OPEN TO PUBLIC AT 9AM, ON SATURDAY, MAY 11

CREW TO BE THERE AT 8:30 AM ON SATURDAY

JOB LIST GIVEN OUT AT APRIL MEETING

MEMBERS SELLING OWN PLANTS GIVE 20% TO VICRS

UNSOLD PRIVATE PLANTS TO BE REMOVED BY OWNER

PLANT PRICES:

HYBRIDS 1 GALLON \$22

HYBRIDS 2 GALLON \$35

SPECIES 1 GALLON \$26

SPECIES 2 GALLON \$40

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR PRE-SHOW AND POST-SHOW HELP WILL BE CIRCULATED AT MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS

PAYMENTS IN CASH, CHEQUE AND CREDIT CARD

POSTERS WILL BE READY FOR MEMBERS TO DISPLAY AT LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTERS AT THE APRIL MEETING

OUR MARCH MEETING IS OUR 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will occur after we hear how to grow citrus on Vancouver Island, presented by Bob and Verna Duncan.

It will not be our usual type of an Annual General Meeting as medical issues have recently impacted a number of our members, making our group, despite the love of our favorite plant, somewhat decimated. At this time, we need other members to volunteer to help keep the club a viable organization.

With the situation as it is, please consider putting your name forth as a volunteer to help keep our club vital. Most positions require approximately one hour per month of volunteer time. Board meetings are held via ZOOM and in busy times like our upcoming show and sale, there will be signup sheets to help with this special event.

For jobs that require more than an hour, we plan to have an experienced member partner with the new volunteer.



VICTORIA RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

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