



Rhododendrons

Rhododendrons thrive in Puget Sound conditions when given proper care. Most prefer partial shade – either dappled light all day, or morning sun and afternoon shade. Many will take full open sun if given proper watering, fertilizing, and mulching. However, virtually no rhododendron will take hot reflected sun (for example, in front of an unshaded south or west facing wall). In our list below, rhodies that tolerate more heat and light, or that require full shade, will be indicated in the comments.

Most rhododendrons available are hybrids propagated by cuttings (a form of cloning). That means each plant is genetically identical to one with known characteristics under typical growing conditions. Species rhododendrons may either be cutting-grown or seed grown. They thus may exhibit much more variability in flower color, height, growth habit, etc. than hybrids (which are all clones of the parent plant). Species rhododendrons are indicated on Sky's list with the prefix R., italics, and an asterisk, for example "*R. rex**" for *Rhododendron rex*; if there is just a name the plant is a hybrid. Heights shown on Sky's list are expected ten-year heights. Bloom time will vary according to the weather; we list approximate bloom time as a guide. Most rhododendrons are evergreen; leaves range from tiny to huge, and some have a fuzz called indumentum on the underside.

Rhododendrons prefer rich soil with good aeration, drainage, and water retention. See Sky Nursery's **General Planting Instructions** sheet for details on soil preparation and planting. They prefer to be kept moist but not soggy. A light layer of mulch can help improve water retention, and will also slowly improve your soil quality. Rhododendrons dislike heavy mulches: do not place the mulch deeper than an inch, and do not allow it to touch the trunks of your plants. Summer watering is usually necessary in the Northwest.

Regular feeding is also helpful. You can use **Dr. Earth Azalea, Rhododendron, and Camellia Food** or **E. B. Stone Azalea, Camellia, and Gardenia Food** in spring, or feed lightly each month with **Greenall Care**. Follow package instructions.

Rhododendrons benefit from having the dead bloom heads pinched off. If pruning is needed to shape your plant, do so as soon as possible after the blooms fade. Pruning late in the season can diminish next year's bloom.

Several insects like to prey on rhododendrons. Root weevils are the most prevalent; the larvae can attack the roots and the adults eat the foliage. If you see notches in your rhododendron leaves, suspect weevil damage. **Beneficial nematodes (Scanmask) are biological controls** effective against the weevil larvae, and **Tanglefoot** can be used as an effective barrier against adults. Pruning out branches that touch the ground can help deter them. Other controls are available; consult a Sky nursery associate for recommendations.

For other problems or questions, contact one of Sky's nursery associates.

Rhododendron List 2025

- Abe Arnott** Vivid reddish purple with dark burgundy blotch. Blooms May. 5'
- Album Elegans** White blushed mauve with green-tan blotch. Blooms late May. 6'
- America** Deep pinkish red. Blooms May. 4-5'. Sprawling. Likes sun
- Anah Kruschke** Deep reddish purple with dark red blotch. Blooms late May. 4-6'. Upright, full
- Anna Rose Whitney** Rosy pink; large truss. Blooms late May. 5-6'. Upright, tall
- Baden-Baden** Glowing red with darker center. Blooms early May. 30-36". Spreading, full
- Blue Baron** Vivid violet. Blooms early May. 30-36". Compact
- Blue Diamond** Bright blue; small, profuse. Blooms late April. 30-36". Dense; tolerates sun
- Blutopia** Strong purple with yellow spots. Blooms June. 4-5'. Broad, upright form
- Boule de Neige** Pure white "snowballs". Blooms early May. 5'. Rounded form; tolerates sun
- Bow Bells** Light pink; deep pink buds. Blooms late April. 30-36". Low, mounding
- Bubblegum** Pink to purple, large. Blooms late February. 3-4'. Upright
- Busuki** Pale yellow. Blooms early May. 5-6'. Rounded
- Butterfly** Pale yellow. Blooms early May. 5-6'. Rounded
- Calsap** White with burgundy blotch. Blooms late May. 3-4'. Compact, rounded form
- Capistrano** Light lemon yellow. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright form, very hardy
- Casanova** Pale yellow with gold blotch, pink flush. Blooms May. 4-5'
- R. catawbiense album*** White. Blooms May. 5-6'. Rounded. Likes part shade.
- Cherries and Merlot** Bright red. Blooms early April. 2-3'. Dense; gorgeous wine indumentum
- Chionoides** White with yellow blotch. Blooms mid-May. 5'. Rounded, dense
- Christmas Cheer** Light pink; slightly frilled. Blooms late February. 3-4'. Round, dense form
- Cunningham's White** White with green-yellow blotch. Blooms late May. 3-4'. Compact
- Daphnoides** Light purple with tan markings. Blooms late May. 4'
- Dexter's Red** Crimson red. Blooms May. 5-6'
- Dora Amateis** Pure white; spicy fragrance. Blooms late April. 30-36". Rounded, dense

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- Ebony Pearl** Mauve pink with red spots. Blooms May. 3-4'. Red new growth; bronzy foliage
- Edith Bosley** Dark purple, black blotch. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright
- Elizabeth** Flame red; large trumpets. Blooms late April. 30-36". Mounding
- Everred** Deep red, bell-shaped. Blooms April-May. 2-3'. Dramatic reddish foliage. Dislikes heat
- Fred G. Peste** Light red. Blooms early May. 3-4'. Rounded
- Gartendirektor Glocker** Deep pink with deeper edge. Blooms late April. 30-36". Mounding
- Ginny Gee** Pink dappled with white and darker pink. Blooms late April. 1-2'. Compact
- Glowing Gold** Red buds open to butter-yellow flowers with deep pink midribs, orange throat. Blooms late April. 3'. Compact plant; leaves have white indumentum
- Goldflimmer** Lavender purple, frilly. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Variegated green and gold foliage
- Gomer Waterer** Pink buds open pearly white with golden blotch. Blooms late May. 5-6'. Rounded, dense form; tolerates heat
- Hardijzer's Beauty** Bright pink. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Upright
- Harvest Moon** Creamy white with reddish flare. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright
- Holden's Solar Flair** Yellow with red flare. Blooms May. 3-4'. Rounded form; very cold hardy
- Honey Butter** Yellow-orange. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright form
- Horizon Monarch** Banana yellow from pink buds. Blooms mid-April. 5-6'. Rounded form
- Hotei** Canary yellow; round truss. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Round, compact form
- R. impeditum**** Purple-blue; very profuse. Blooms late April. 10-12". Spreading, dense
- Irene Bain** Pale pink aging to white with darker pink edges; frilly. Blooms May. 3'. Compact
- (The Honourable) Jean Marie de Montague** Bright red. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Rounded, full; tolerates sun; some say the best red rhody ever bred
- Ken Janeck** Very light pink; frilled. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Rounded, dense
- Lee's Dark Purple** Dark purple with yellow blotch. Blooms late May. 5-7'. Upright, rounded
- Lord Roberts** Dark red with black blotch. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded, upright. Likes sun
- Medusa** Orange with red markings. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Compact

Minnetonka Light purple with green spots. Blooms May. 3-4'. Dense, spreading

R. myrtifolium* Small, mauve-pink trumpets. Blooms early June. 2-3'. Rounded, dense habit. Heat tolerant

Nancy Evans Golden yellow to amber. Blooms early May. 3-4'. Rounded, full form

Old Copper Coppery orange. Blooms late May. 5'. Upright, open habit

Olympic Lady Pastel pink, fades to white. Blooms early April. 4-6'

Ostbo's Red/ Ostbo's Elizabeth Flame red, large trumpets. Blooms late April. 30-36". Mounding, dense; new foliage is bronze-red

Patty Bee Pastel lemon yellow. Blooms late April. 2'

Percy Wiseman Pink aging to cream, with a yellow throat. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Compact

PJM Lavender-pink; profuse. Blooms early March. 3-4'. Rounded form; hardy; tolerates sun

PJM Compacta Lavender-pink; profuse. Blooms early March. 2-3'

PJM Elite Lavender-pink; profuse. Blooms early March. 3-4'. Upright; leaves darken in winter

Polarnacht Very deep purple. Blooms mid-May. 3'. Broad form

President Roosevelt Beautiful red with white throat. Blooms late April. 3-4'. Variegated foliage—dark green splashed with yellow!

Purple Gem Deep violet, profuse. Blooms late April. 1-2'. Rounded, dense

Purple Passion Rich deep purple. Blooms mid-May. 6'. Vase like form

Ramapo Deep violet; very profuse. Blooms late April. 18-24". Round, compact; tolerates sun

Sapphire Light blue; small, profuse. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Rounded, dense

Sappho White with deep purple blotch. Blooms early May. 5-7'. Rounded, loose form

Seaview Sunset Pale yellow edged with orange-red. Blooms early May. 30-36". Compact

Sefton Deep red-purple with darker spotting. Blooms May. Low, spreading habit

Shamrock Chartreuse; very profuse. Blooms mid-April. 10-15". Round, compact

Snow Lady White with brown anthers. Blooms early April. 3'. Loose form; glossy foliage

Starry Night Deep violet. 30-36". Compact but upright

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Taurus Red with black speckles; large. Blooms late April. 5-6'. Large & full

The General Crimson with red blotch. Blooms May. 5'. Deep green foliage

Top Banana Rich yellow; round truss. Blooms April. 3-4'. Round, compact

Trude Webster Lovely clear pink; huge trusses. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Rounded, full

Virginia Richards Opens rosy pink, ages to apricot then yellow. Blooms early May. 3-4'

Vulcan Flame red; rounded truss. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Round, dense

Vulcan's Flame Flame red; very floriferous. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Round, dense. Likes sun

War Dance Currant red with black blotch. 3-4'. Upright

Wilgen's Ruby Deep red. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded form

Wine and Roses Bright rose-pink. Blooms April. 3-4'. Gorgeous wine indumentum

Yaku Prince Deep pink, aging to pale pink. Blooms May-June. 3-4'. Compact, rounded

Yaku Princess Pale pink with green spots. Blooms late May. 2-3'. Mounding, dense

SPECIES RHODODENDRONS – Sky is proud to offer a selection of species rhododendrons from specialty grower Chimacum Woods. We will add their selections to this list when we receive their shipment in early March.

