



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 2024

- 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
- Arthur Bedford** Lavender with red blotch. Blooms late May. 6'. Open, upright. Tolerates sun.
- Autumn Gold** Salmon orange. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded
- 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
- 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
- Buttermint** Pastel yellow with pink edges. Blooms early May. 3-4'. Vase-like
- C.I.S.** Pale yellow to peach with red throat. Blooms May/June. 4'. Upright, sparse
- Calsap** White with burgundy blotch. Blooms late May. 3-4'. Compact, rounded form
- Carol Jean** Light red. Blooms May. 5'. Tolerates sun
- R. catawbiense album*** White. Blooms May. 5-6'. Rounded. Likes part shade.
- 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
- Dexter's Red** Crimson red. Blooms May. 5-6'
- Dora Amateis** Pure white; spicy fragrance. Blooms late April. 30-36". Rounded, dense
- Edith Bosley** Dark purple, black blotch. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright
- Elizabeth** Red; large trumpets. Blooms late April. 30-36". Spreading
- Fastuosum Flore Pleno** Lavender blue, profuse. Blooms late May. 5-6'. Rounded
- Firestorm** Deep red. Blooms late April. 36-42". Dense, mounding
- Francesca** Cherry red. Blooms May. 6'. Rounded, open

- Fred G. Peste** Light red. Blooms early May. 3-4'. Rounded
- Furnivall's Daughter** Bright pink with darker blotch. Blooms late April. 4-5'. Rounded and tall
- 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
- Gomer Waterer** Pink buds open pearly white with golden blotch. Blooms late May. 5-6'. Rounded, dense form; tolerates heat
- Graf Zeppelin** Two-tone pink; ruffled. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded, full
- Hardijzer's Beauty** Bright pink. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Upright
- Harvest Moon** Creamy white with reddish flare. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Upright
- 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
- (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
- Linda** Rose red. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Rounded
- Madam Masson** Bright white with greenish-yellow blotch; conical truss. Blooms May. 5'
- Manda Sue** Shell pink with yellow throat. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Round, compact
- Medusa** Orange with red markings. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Compact
- Mother Greer** Dark lavender. Blooms early May. 18". Low.
- 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
- Oceanlake** Deep violet-blue; profuse. Blooms late April. 24-30". Rounded, dense

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- Old Copper** Coppery orange. Blooms late May. 5'. Upright, open habit
- Olin O. Dobbs** Deep reddish purple. Blooms mid May. 3-4'. Upright form
- Ostbo's Elizabeth** Flame red. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Mounding, dense; new growth is red
- Oudijk's Sensation** Deep pink with darker spots. Blooms early May. 6'
- Paul R. Bosley** Medium pink, red blotch;large. Blooms late April. 3-4'. Rounded
- 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
- Pohjola's Daughter** Shell pink with fuchsia buds. 3-4'. Very cold hardy
- Polarnacht** Very deep purple. Blooms mid May.3'. Broad form
- Purple Gem** Deep violet, profuse. Blooms late April. 1-2'. Rounded, dense
- Purple Splendour** Darkest purple with black blotch. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded, open
- Ramapo** Deep violet; very profuse. Blooms late April. 18-24". Round, compact; tolerates sun
- Rocket** Coral pink with blotch; frilled. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Oval, 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
- Taurus** Red with black speckles; large. Blooms late April. 5-6'. Large & full
- Teddy Bear** Light pink aging to white. Blooms late April. 2-3'. Rounded, dense
- The General** Crimson with red blotch. Blooms May. 5'. Deep green foliage
- Tiana** White with burgundy blotch; frilly. Blooms April-May. 4-5'. Upright, open habit
- Trilby** Deep crimson with black blotch. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded, full
- Trude Webster** Lovely clear pink; huge trusses. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Rounded, full
- Vincent van Gogh** Cerise red edges, white "star" inside. Blooms May.5'. Rounded

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

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

R. aberconwayi* Pink to white with red spots. Blooms mid April. 2-3'. Upright, open habit

R. arboreum* Bell-shaped, pink to carmine, sometimes red or white. Blooms April. 5-6'.
Treelike. Part shade; protect from wind

R. asterocnoulum* White to pink, bell-shaped. 10-12'. Upright, vasselike form. 15" long leaves.

R. auriculatum* White or pink; fragrant. Blooms June. 5-6'. Treelike

R. bureavii* White flushed pale pink. Blooms May. 4'. Large glossy foliage

R. calophytum* Light pink; large truss. Blooms late March. 6-10'. Broad, upright. Likes shade

R. cinnabarinum Dark red to red-orange, tubular, scented. Blooms May. 5-6'. Upright; gray-green foliage

R. decorum* White to pink, fragrant. Blooms April. 4-5', upright form

R. faberi* White to pale pink, bell-shaped. Blooms May. 4-5', dense

R. faucium* Bright pink flowers. 5-6'. Upright, treelike form. Smooth red peeling bark.

R. fortunei* Fragrant; bell-shaped pink or greenish white flowers. Blooms early May. 5-6'.
Eventually becomes small tree; purple leaf stems; protect from wind

R. hookeri* Red, ranging from rose to deep crimson; tubular. Blooms April/May. 6-7', upright

R. hunnewellianum* White to orchid pink, purple spots. Blooms February/March. 5',
rounded compact form

R. macrophyllum* (Pacific NW Native rhododendron) Pink to rosy purple; large truss. Blooms early June. 4-5'. Rounded, open

R. mekongense var mekongense* Yellow to greenish yellow. Blooms May. 3'

R. phaeochrysum* White, sometimes flushed pink or yellow. Blooms May. 4'. Very shiny dark green leaves with golden indumentum

R. pingianum* Pale pink to lavender. Blooms May. 5-6'

R. rex* Tubular flowers, white to rose with crimson spots. Blooms May 12-16' Upright treelike form. Classic big-leaf plant; 15" leaves with fawn indumentum

R. rex spp fictolacteam* Tubular; white to pink or lilac with crimson spots. Blooms April. 5-6'. Upright; 12" leaves with good indumentum

R. sinogrande* White with red eye. Blooms mid March. 5-6'. Upright

R. wardii* Yellow. Bloom early May. 3-4'. Rounded. Attractive foliage

R. yakushmanum* Light pink. Blooms late April. 2-4'. Rounded