



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 **Espoma Azalea-Tone** 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 **Gonzo Goop Insect Barrier** 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

Rhododendron List 2025

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

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

Ignatius Sargent Dark pink with red markings, fragrant. Blooms late May. 5-7'. Sprawling and vigorous

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

Rhododendron List 2025

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!

Princess Anne Light yellow. Blooms early May. 18-24". Round, compact

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

- Solidarity** Cerise buds opening clear pink. Blooms May. 3'. Rounded form
- Starry Night** Deep violet. 30-36". Compact but upright
- 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
- Tiana** White with burgundy blotch; frilly. Blooms April-May. 4-5'. Upright, open habit
- 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
- Victoria** Hot pink buds open to pink with white throat
- 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.

- R. barbatum**** Crimson to red, fleshy flowers. Blooms March. 3-5'. Upright, treelike; with age develops red peeling bark
- R. calophytum**** Light pink; large truss. Blooms late March. 6-10'. Broad, upright. Likes shade
- R. decorum**** White to pink, fragrant. Blooms April. 4-5', upright form
- R. degronianum**** Pink to white flowers. 4-6', twisted form. Likes partial shade
- R. erosum**** Red to crimson. Blooms April. 4-6'. Great foliage; hairy stems; plum new growth

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. glanduliferum* Large white flowers, very fragrant. **Blooms August & September.** 9-12'. Upright, with 14-16" leaves and bronze maroon new growth

R. hodgsonii* Deep pink to purple or red. Blooms April. 5', upright to round form

R. kesangiae* Rose to pink aging to pale pink or purple. Blooms May. 7'. Upright, with large foliage and red new growth

R. magniflorum* White to pale pink, large, fragrant. Long trusses. 3-5', upright form

R. mallotum* Crimson to scarlet, trumpet-shaped flowers in ball-shaped trusses. 3-4'. 6" long leaves with cinnamon indumentum

R. moupinense* Snow white, with red-purple blotch. Blooms February to March. 18-30". Open, spreading. Prefers part shade

R. ochraceum* Dark red, unmarked. Blooms May. 5', upright

R. pachysanthum* Light pink to white, spotted. Blooms March-April. 30-36". Compact, dense growth

R. praestans* Bell-shaped, white to creamy pink. Blooms April. Slow-growing to 8-12'. Tree-like form; rugulose leaves up to 20" Part shade; protect from wind

R. praevernium* Variable: pink, white, or lilac with darker blotch. Blooms February to March. Grows 5-6'. Upright. Prefers part shade

R. qiaojiense* White to pink, large, fragrant. Blooms April. Compact form

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

R. yuefengense* Pale pink to pinkish purple. Blooms May. 2-5'. Round, very thick, leathery blue-green leaves. Likes some sun