



## Rhododendrons

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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** are a biological control agent effective against the weevil larvae, and **Gonzo Goop Insect Barrier** can be used as a 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 2026

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- 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'
- 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
- Black Eye** Reddish purple with black blotch. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Rounded
- Blue Baron** Vivid violet. Blooms early May. 30-36". Compact
- Blue Peter** Lilac with purple blotch; frilly. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Tolerates heat
- Bluette** Hyacinth blue. Blooms late May. 2-3'. Vase-like form; tolerates sun
- Blutopia** Strong purple with yellow spots. Blooms June. 4-5'. Broad, upright form
- Bob's Blue** Electric blue-purple; profuse. Early May. 4-5'. Round, compact
- 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
- 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
- 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'
- Dark Lord** Deep rich burgundy with darker blotch, white anthers. Blooms May. 5'. Rounded.
- Dexter's Red** Crimson red. Blooms May. 5-6'
- Dora Amateis** Pure white; spicy fragrance. Blooms late April. 30-36". Rounded, dense

- Earl Murray** Salmon-orange. Blooms May. 5-6'. Upright
- 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
- Elephant Ears** Soft pink bells. A *Rhododendron sinogrande* hybrid named for its large rounded leaves. 4-5'.
- Fastuosum Flore Pleno** Lavender blue, profuse. Blooms late May. 5-6'. Rounded
- 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
- Golden Ruby** Bright yellow with deep pink edges. Blooms late April. 3-4'. Rounded form
- 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
- Henrietta Sargent** Deep purple pink. Blooms late May. 4-5'.
- Henry's Red** Dark cherry red. Blooms early May. 4-5'. Rounded, full
- 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

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- Ken Janeck** Very light pink; frilled. Blooms early May. 2-3'. Rounded, dense
- Killer Diller** Bright yellow edged with red-orange. Very showy! Blooms May. 4'
- 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
- Nancy Evans** Golden yellow to amber. Blooms early May. 3-4'. Rounded, full form
- Nova Zembla** Bright red with black spots. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Upright
- 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 March. 4-5'. Upright, compact. Leaves darken in cold to almost mahogany. A Great Plant Pick
- PJM Elite Star** Deeper purple red, very ruffled, profuse. Blooms March. 4-5'. Upright, compact. Leaves darken in cold to almost mahogany.
- PJM Regal** Lavender-pink; profuse. Blooms March. 4-5'. Rounded, upright
- 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

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- 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
- Songbird** Glowing bright violet-blue. Blooms late March. 2-3'. Round, compact
- Starry Night** Deep violet. 30-36". Compact but upright
- Superflimmer** Dark lavender purple, frilly. Blooms late May. 2-3'. Variegated green and gold foliage, darker yellow than Goldflimmer
- 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
- 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'
- Voluptuous** Red and pink with pale yellow star. Slight fragrance. Blooms late May. 4-5'. Upright, dense
- 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
- Whitney's Late Orange** Beautiful orange edged rose. Blooms late May. 3-4'. Rounded, full
- 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
- Yak Cupcake** Pink aging to apricot. Blooms mid-May. 2-3'. Compact, rounded

**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, mostly from local specialty grower Chimacum Woods.**

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

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

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

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

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

**R. macabeaum\*** Yellow with purple blotch. Blooms April. 5-6'. Upright treelike

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

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

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

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

**R. racemosum\*** White to pale pink; rose-pink buds. Blooms April. 2-3'. Upright, open form

***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'. Very large leaves. Upright

***R. strigillosum***\* Blood red. Blooms April. 4-5'. Rounded form; long leaves in rosette

***R. thomsonii***\* Crimson to wine-red, bell shaped flower. Blooms mid-April. 4-5'. Upright form; unusual peeling red bark

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