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# RHODODENDRON

## SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN

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### SPRING NEWSLETTER

### VOLUME 50 | NUMBER 1 | 2025

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# Executive Director's Report

By Steve Hootman

Executive Director of Horticulture and Curator



As we head into spring and our peak bloom season, we look back with relief on what turned out to be our first “normal” winter in several years. Our temperatures never went below 20 F and the precipitation and storm events were typical for the winter season in this part of the world. This translates into little or no damage on most rhododendrons and companion plants in the garden – no burnt foliage, no bark split, no blasted flower buds, no death, etc. A welcome break from what we have experienced in the last few years.

Unfortunately, this does not necessarily translate into a more colorful bloom season, however and the flower bud set on most of the early and mid-season blooming species is quite low this year. I attribute this primarily to the fact that last spring we had the greatest amount of flowering that we have ever witnessed at the RSBG. Following such an abundant display of energy and effort, many of the species are simply taking a break this year to build up their strength and focus on new growth and flower bud production for next year (we hope).

In the nursery we have completed the last two of our three new hoops through our recent Capitol

Improvement Fund, financed by donations from you, our members. Great thanks to Dennis Bottemiller and Paul Thompson who planned and executed the construction of these two important growing spaces in our production nursery (with the assistance of staff and many volunteers, of course).

In honor of the work Dennis and Paul have undertaken for this nursery improvement, (on top of the years of work for the RSBG, of course), these two hoops have been named the Dennis Bottemiller hoop (Hoop D) and the Paul Thompson hoop (Hoop T). These both nicely complement the first new hoop (Hoop R, named for long-time volunteer Rollo Adams), completed in the first phase of this nursery improvement project.

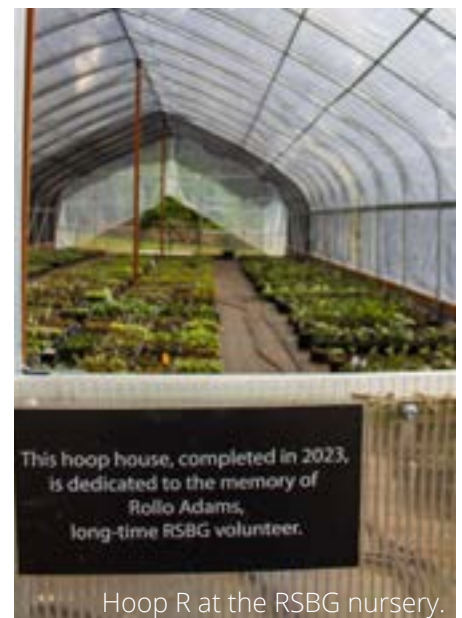
A nomenclatural update to the plant collection: A recent collection from the wild, which we have distributed as “*R. yuefengense* affinity YuGu#084” has subsequently been named as a new species and is now classified as *Rhododendron yuanbaoshanense*. Please update your labeling for this very important collection which is quite rare in the wild.



Hoop D at the RSBG nursery.



Hoop T at the RSBG nursery.



Hoop R at the RSBG nursery.





# RHODODENDRON SPECIES SYMPOSIUM

April 25-26, 2025 • Federal Way, WA

Registration is open for the 2025 Rhododendron Species Symposium.

Gardeners, plant enthusiasts, and experts from around the globe will come together to celebrate gardening's beauty, science, and artistry. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting your journey, this symposium has something for everyone.

Enjoy captivating lectures, guided garden tours, and lively discussions, plus a special Q&A panel featuring our Keynote Speaker, Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener at the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh.

Don't miss the chance to hear from Steve Hootman, RSBG's Executive Director of Horticulture and Curator, about exciting new introductions in the world of *Rhododendrons*.

**REGISTER HERE**

**Early bird RSBG member rate: \$160**

**Early bird nonmember rate: \$180**

For all the details—tickets, schedule, speakers, lodging, workshops, and more—visit [rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org).

**EARLY BIRD  
RATES END  
ON MAR. 28**



# Nursery News

By Atsuko Gibson

RSBG Nursery Manager and Assistant Curator



When you manage a nursery, you become a great Tetris player. Why? Because that is what we do here at the RSBG nursery: we find the right place at the right time for plants. I think this is one of the most important skills for managing a nursery, but it is something I was not taught at school.

The production of plants starts in the propagation greenhouse, whether they are grown from seeds or cuttings. When a plant develops a large enough root system, it is potted into a band pot (2.5" x 2.5" x 5") and moved outside to one of six hoop houses. It may sit in the same spot for one to three years, depending on how fast it grows and when it is ready to be potted into a one-gallon container, the size that the majority of our plants are sold in. Each plant moves to a different location every time it is potted into a larger container. Space is tight in

our two-acre nursery. This means if I fall behind on potting band pots into one-gallon containers, there is not enough space for recently potted seedlings/rooted cuttings to be moved out from the propagation greenhouse. This will cause the propagation greenhouse to be at capacity, slowing down production.

The recent addition of three brand-new hoop houses will help solve this problem for a while, which is such a relief! We have gained 600-square-feet after replacing five aging hoop houses with three larger ones. Many thanks to all the donors whose financial support made this possible and to the staff and volunteers who helped us to build the hoop houses.

Finally, thank you to the nursery volunteers who come in weekly to pot, rain or shine, so we can keep winning the game of Tetris.



Propagation greenhouse at the RSBG.

## Spring Catalog Highlights

One of the featured plants in this catalog is *Rhododendron primuliflorum*. This rare alpine species grows above 10,000 feet in its native habitat of W. China to S. Tibet. Like many other alpine species, your best bet for successful cultivation is to keep the roots cool during the hottest part of the day. Because we can't mimic nature's way of doing so (melting snow water), we must be creative. This can be accomplished by placing a log or rock above the root ball for shade, running irrigation for short intervals in the afternoons, or growing them in troughs where soil temperature can be kept cool depending on where you place them. The small but lovely daphne-like flowers are dusty pink.

Another must-have selection is *Rhododendron kaempferi* 'Semperflorens'. This easily grown evergreen azalea is glorious when its unusual

carmine-pink blossoms appear in late spring. When in bloom, this reliable blooming selection reminds me of fireworks. Just like other evergreen azaleas, the ease of cultivation makes it a great plant for rhododendron beginners. It thrives in sun or light shade, with regular watering for best results.

Lastly, if you are looking for an unusual *Hydrangea*, I would recommend *Hydrangea radiata*. This plant's common name is 'Silverleaf hydrangea' after the dusty white color on the underside of the foliage. When grown in shade, the color of the foliage stands out even more. In its native habitat in the Appalachian mountains, the lace-cap flowers of this species appear in mid-June to early-July. It grows best when planted in soil that doesn't dry out. These plants were grown from seeds collected by the RSBG staff in 2022.



*R. primuliflorum* 'Doker La'



*R. kaempferi* 'Semperflorens'



*Hydrangea radiata*





# ARS 2025

## Emerging Trends for Rhododendrons

Wolfville, Nova Scotia • June 5-8, 2025

### Speakers:

**Dr. Hartwig Schepker, Bremen Rhododendron Park**

**Connor Ryan, Holden Forest and Gardens**

**Joe Bruso, President, Massachusetts Chapter, ARS**

**Ron Rabideau, Greater Philadelphia ARS Chapter**



*Please Register by May 15th*

**Garden Tours of the Kentville Research Station and Private Gardens**

**Bonus: Pre and Post tours of five days each to gardens throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick**



**For More Information and to Register: [ars2025.org](http://ars2025.org)**



# Species Profile: *R. serpyllifolium* (A. Gray) Miq. 1857

By Emily Joseph

RSBG Assistant Nursery Manager and Retail Sales Manager



Classified in the genus of *Rhododendron* within section Tsutsusi, this semi-evergreen/semi-deciduous species is grouped with the azaleas typically native to Japan, China, and Taiwan. *Rhododendron serpyllifolium* can be found in the wild between central and southern Japan, specifically in areas with volcanic soils and large boulders. More specifically, this species grows in the lower elevations (150-800 m./492-2,623 ft.) of the southern mountainous regions of Shikoku, Kansai, and Chugoku, with the furthest northern population in the Shizuoka prefecture in the Izu Peninsula and the furthest southern population in the Kagoshima prefecture on the island of Kyushu. Togashi explains a theory in *The Species of Rhododendron in Japan*, that the population was first established in the southern most part of Kyushu before spreading northeast from Shikoku to the Izu Peninsula.

Though well-known in its native range, the species was first recorded into western botanical records in 1857 as *Azalea serpyllifolia*, when an herbarium specimen was collected and sent to Asa Gray to prepare in the account for the *Narrative of the expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan*. The species was then formally described in 1865 by Miquel and re-classified as *Rhododendron serpyllifolium*. Introduced into cultivation by Charles Maries through Veitch Nursery, it flowered for the first time in 1882 before later being introduced abroad and in the U.S. Yet this beautiful and unique species is now largely uncultivated outside of propagators of rare woody material, even among specialty rhododendron growers.

*R. serpyllifolium* forms a densely branched shrub, two to three feet in height (60-92 cm), though airy in habit due to the extremely small foliage, leaving the wiry branching structure highly visible throughout the seasons. Commonly called the wild thyme azalea, the species epithet, *serpyllifolium*, was given to refer to the

plant having leaves like *Thymus serpyllum*. The extremely small leaves are only half an inch in length, though usually less, and slightly woolly. As a relative of *R. kiusianum*, another species from Kyushu, the resemblance can be seen in the foliage which is described as “strigose,” meaning covered with short stiff hairs. Yet, the leaves of *serpyllifolium* are much smaller than those of *kiusianum*, making this species the smallest leaved rhododendron of its kind in Japan and one that certainly does not look like a typical rhododendron.



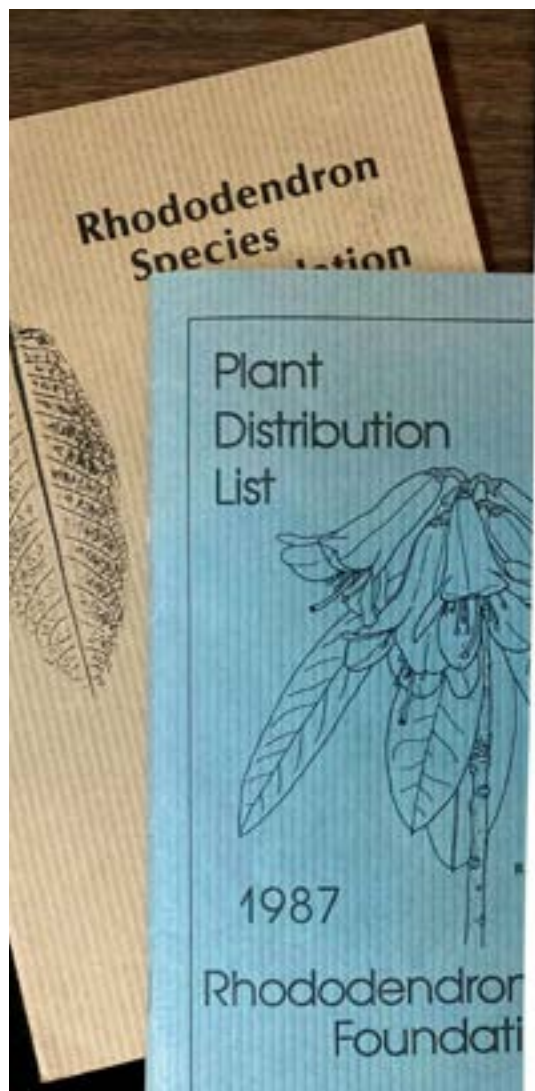
*R. serpyllifolium*

The semi-evergreen/semi-deciduous nature of this plant has more to do with where it is grown, as it will remain evergreen in milder/warmer climates but will lose most, if not all, of its leaves in cooler climates. Flowers appear in mid to late spring and vary in color from pale pink (almost lavender) to a deeper rose pink (or something in between the two). In addition, there is a rare pure white flowered form sometimes referred to as variety *albiflorum*. In the garden, the elegant and abundant display of small but charming blooms on delicate, almost bare branches always adds a bit of sparkle to spring.

Like many Japanese azaleas, this species performs best in bright shade or part sun where it has high enough light to retain its natural habit. Yet, this species is tolerant of pruning if the overall size or spread is of concern for the space conscious gardener. Light pruning will also

increase the density of branching, though a plant sited in the right place will naturally develop an artfully wild habit to be admired. In addition, a nutrient rich, but well-draining soil is a must-have condition for optimal growth of this species as its native habitat contains largely volcanic soils with extremely sharp drainage. With a hardiness rating down to -5 F (-20 C), this species is garden worthy to about zone 6b, though the fact that it is native to lower elevations has made hardiness highly variable in cultivation historically.

Though we have offered several accessions of *Rhododendron serpyllifolium* in our distribution catalogs over the years, with the first offering dating back to 1978, it is only in recent years that we have propagated the white flowered form vegetatively via cuttings. It is no surprise that this is one of the most asked about plants in the garden, as this specimen draws attention



#### **sanctum**

*Brachycalyx* (Azalea)  
Deciduous shrubs to 15 ft. Flowers (May-June) are deep rose or purplish-pink. Bright orange-red fall foliage. Rare in cultivation and a very limited distribution in the wild. Found in the sacred area of the great shrine, Ise, Japan.  
73250 GIC (B). Lavender-rose flowers. 6-16 inches. \$30.50

#### **strigineum ssp. didymum**

*Neriiflora*  
Dwarf shrubs, 1 to 4 feet. The short, tubular-campanulate flowers (June-July) are deep crimson to almost black-crimson, a pleasing contrast to the shiny foliage. Occurs in moist story alpine meadows, rocky moorland, and on the margins of forests and bamboo groves at 14,000 to 15,000 feet. China (SE Tibet).  
66215 R 44: CHP (B). Black-crimson flowers. 6-12 inches. \$8.50

#### **scabrifolium var. spiciferum**

*Scabrofolia*  
Shrubs to 6 ft. Flowers (April) are rose to pink or white. Leaves with soft hairs. Found on dry, rocky slopes, in pine woods, thickets, and scrub at 8,000 ft. China.  
64106 (syn. *spiciferum*) ERO (+5). Rose-pink flowers. 6-8 inches. \$8.50

#### **schlippenbachii**

*Sciadodendron* (Azalea)  
Deciduous shrubs to 15 ft. Flowers (May) are pale pink to rose-pink, occasionally white, and with reddish-brown flecks. Sometimes scented. Commonly called the Royal Azalea, this species prefers some shade. Excellent autumn color. Found abundantly in open woodland. Korea, NE Manchuria.  
90SD2 Seedling KOR. 2-6 inches. \$6.00  
90SD3 Seedling KOR. 4-6 inches. \$6.00

#### **serpyllifolium**

*Tsutsusi* (Azalea)  
Semi-deciduous shrubs to 4 ft. Flowers (April-May) are pale pink to white. Perhaps the smallest leaves and flowers in the genus. Found on well-drained volcanic soils at elevations up to 6,000 ft. Japan.  
76366 HSZ: WEB (-5). 4-7 inches. \$9.50  
79173 WEB (-5). Form with delightful fuchsia-colored flowers. 6-8 inches. \$12.00  
79175 WEB (-5). Lavender-purple flowers. 4-8 inches. \$9.50

#### **serrulatum**

*Pentanthera* (Azalea)  
Deciduous shrubs to 15 ft. Flowers (July-August) are white or occasionally pale pink. One of the latest to bloom. The blossoms have a pleasing sweet, clove-like scent. Native to coastal plains on the edges of wooded swamps. SE USA.  
76283 HTS 1280: USNA (-5). Fragrant white-flowered form from Screven County, Georgia. 8-12 inches. \$7.00

#### **sherlar**

*Euvireya* (*Vireya*)  
Shrubs to 5 ft. Funnel-shaped flowers (variable flowering time) are deep purple-red. Oblong to obovate leaves in pseudowhorls. Dr. Hermann O. Sleumer states that this species is "presumably a more or less intermediate hybrid between *R. abridgatum* and *R. huxthamii* var. *rubrum*." A subalpine species found on boulders, ridges and among the dense vegetation of low trees and shrubs at 9,000 to 10,000 ft. on the eastern side of Mt. Kinabalu on the island of Borneo, Malaysia (Sabah).  
87048 GA 80154: RBG (+32). 6-7 inches. \$10.00

#### **sherriffii**

*Fulgensia*  
Shrubs or small trees, 12 to 20 ft. Flowers (April) are deep crimson with darker nectar pouches. Rounded leaves with a thick chocolate-brown indumentum. Rare in cultivation. Found on steep mountain slopes near tree line at 12,000 to 13,000 ft. China.  
75052 HIL (+5). Funnel-campanulate corollas of dark crimson. 4-6 inches. \$7.00  
76155 LA5 2751: WGP (+5). Crimson flowers. AM 1966. 2-6 inches. \$9.00  
76190 RBG (+5). 2-4 inches. \$6.50

#### **spinuliferum**

*Scabrofolia*  
Shrubs to 8 ft. Flowers (April) are pink, orange, brick- or crimson-red. Briefly new growth and unique upright tubular flowers. Found in dense scrub and shady thickets at 6,000 to 8,000 ft. China.  
87012 SBEC (+10). 7-17 inches. \$10.50  
87014 SBEC (+10). 9 inches. \$10.50

#### **strigillosum**

*Maculifera*  
Shrubs or small trees, 3 to 20 ft. Flowers (February-March) are deep red to crimson-scarlet with dark nectar pouches. Attractive lance-shaped leaves, stems and petioles with stiff bristles. Found in mixed forests and open slopes from 8,000 to 11,500 ft. China.  
75178 GRE: WW (-5). One of our best forms, with crimson flowers. 4-10 inches. \$10.50  
76081 WEB (-5). Crimson flowers. 4-6 inches. \$9.50  
77627 GRE: PM (-5). Crimson flowers. 4-6 inches. \$9.50  
84047 STN (-5). Deep red flowers. 6-8 inches. \$9.50

#### **superbum**

(*Phaeovireya*) *Vireya*  
Tropical shrubs to 6 ft. Flowers (flowering time varies) are white to creamy yellow. The dramatic large leaves are covered with rough scales. Large scented flowers appear on mature plants. Native to Papua New Guinea at 5,000 to 10,000 ft.  
78094 FM (+32). Flowers with a cream tube and pastel pink lobes. 8-12 inches. \$10.50

*R. serpyllifolium* offered in historic distribution catalogs.





along the main path between two major sections of the Azalea Collection, just below the retail nursery pavilion.

For our members and visitors who have been waiting patiently for this species to be available to add to their personal collection, now is your chance. The pure white flowered form of *Rhododendron serpyllifolium* is currently in stock and available to order through our Spring Catalog, which remains open for ordering until April 30.

#### Accessions in the Collection of the RSF:

- 1970/033 – Fred Robbins
- 1976/078 – Warren Berg
- 1976/356 – Hideo Suzuki – small light lavender flowers
- 1979/173 – Warren Berg – fuchsia flowers

1979/175 – Warren Berg – lavender-purple flowers

2002/136 – YK#9205 Seed from Yuji Kurashige wild collected in Akagi Nature Park

2002/145 – YK#9205 Seed from Yuji Kurashige wild collected in Akagi Nature Park

2002/156 – YK#9205 Seed from Yuji Kurashige wild collected in Akagi Nature Park

#### References Consulted:

Cox, P. A., & Cox, K. N.E. (1997). *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*. Glendoick Publishing.

Davidian, H.H. (1989). *The Rhododendron Species*, (Vol. IV: Azaleas). Timber Press.

Galle, F.C. (1987). *Azaleas: Revised and Enlarged Edition*. Timber Press.

Ōta, Y., & Togashi, M. (1981). *The Species of Rhododendron in Japan*. Seibundo Shinkōsha Publishing Co.





Join us for a fun  
filled virtual  
convention  
highlighting a global  
community of  
researchers,  
conservationists and  
members of the  
public working in

## ***Rhododendron***

This conference is free to attend  
Conference schedule and registration form are now  
available at the link below

<https://medeiroslab.com/2025-virtual-international-convention/>

### **EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PRESENT A POSTER!**

We would love to hear about your project concerning landscape design, conservation, horticulture, breeding, education, or any other project related to Rhododendron. You don't have to be a researcher to present a poster. Poster presenters will upload a PDF poster and interact with poster visitors online via written Q&A.

If interested, please select "YES" or "MAYBE" on question #3 when completing the convention registration and you'll be contacted with instructions on the poster session.



# Garden Highlight: Trillium Collection

By Will Clausen

RSBG Horticulturist & Assistant Curator



*Trillium sulcatum*

Trilliums are one of the classic spring wildflowers and their emergence marks a definite transition from winter. They are showy in form, diverse by nature, and beloved by many. Here at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, trilliums are special enough to be one of the few herbaceous subcollections that we work to grow and maintain, and spring is the time to see them as they emerge from winter sleep to grace the garden. Members of the genus *Trillium* are exceptionally beautiful plants. Every spring new growth from an enlarged root called a rhizome noses its way up through several inches of soil, triggered by warmth, before emerging from the ground and continuing to push up. Three leaves, technically bracts, unfurl, and in many species, these display intense markings in different shades of green and sometimes nearly white or purple.

In most species, the three-parted flowers make a loud and colorful statement held above the leaves, though there are certain trilliums with flowers that nod and hide shyly under the leaves. Flower color differs between species and even within the same species there are can different color forms. White, yellow, red, pink, and maroon are the common colors and some feature streaks of color or fade from one color to another as the flower matures. *Trillium* are known for their distinct floral scents which vary

from one species to the next and can often be used to distinguish plants so effectively that they are sometimes included in official botanical descriptions. Some smell sweet, like green apples, cloves, or lemons. Some are described as smelling like yeast or mushrooms. Others smell rancid, and are compared to rotting meat, manure, and wet dog. Having smelled many of these plants, I must agree with these remarkable comparisons.

*Trillium* are generally divided into two groups: pedicellate species which have flowers on short stalks beyond the leaves, and sessile species which have flowers that sit directly atop the leaves. Different species bloom at different times from early to late spring and by late summer, fruit capsules mature with numerous seeds inside. These seeds each have a small fatty attachment called an elaiosome that ants find attractive enough to take back to their underground nests to feed on. The seed is left intact after the elaiosome is consumed and ant tunnels serve as ideal places for the seed to germinate. In this way, trilliums spread around. Over many years of growth, numerous stems from many entangled rhizomes can create an extraordinary show, and in ideal conditions a whole hillside can be cloaked in the bright flowers of a single species.



*Trillium* species are found through much of eastern North America and in forested areas of the Pacific Northwest down through California along the coast. Several species are found in Asia, primarily in Japan. Altogether, there are regarded to be about 50 species known in the wild, with the southeastern United States being the center of diversity where at least 30 named species occur. New species have been described in recent years, mostly in the southeast, and some perplexing populations of *Trillium* are currently being studied to determine if they too deserve to be designated as distinct species. Here in Washington State, people will think of western trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), which is the most common and widespread trillium, but in fact this is stealthily a minor area of *Trillium* diversity.

In addition to western trillium, you can also find round leaf trillium (*T. petiolatum*), a bizarre species with flowers that sit on the ground underneath the leaves from the Wenatchee Mountains and eastern Washington, and small flowered trillium (*T. albidum* ssp. *parviflorum*) from the oak woodlands of the south Puget Sound down toward the Columbia River. Excitingly, we also have a couple of very newly recognized species in *Trillium crassifolium* from

the Wenatchee Mountains, and *T. stenosepalum* found around Spokane. Both are quite similar in appearance to the widespread western trillium but differ slightly in a few important physical ways, as well as being genetically distinct. Altogether, that gives us five species of trillium in the state.

Given that they grow around us in the wild, it makes sense that trilliums can make great garden plants in the Pacific Northwest given rich humic soil, steady water, and some shade. Among the easiest to find for sale and grow are western trillium, yellow trillium (*T. luteum*), great white trillium (*T. grandiflorum*), and red trillium (*T. erectum*). Many other species can be found if you search for specialty mail order nurseries, and a lot of these are growable. There are *Trillium* species that are more difficult or nearly impossible to cultivate, like snow trillium (*T. nivale*) and painted trillium (*T. undulatum*), but this can be a fun challenge for more experienced and persistent gardeners. Unfortunately, lots of things like eating trilliums and they don't seem too particular about which species. Rabbits, deer, slugs, and voles are all potential adversaries, and attention must be paid to ensure that your plants don't disappear overnight.



*Trillium simile*





*Trillium discolor*

Thankfully, effective and available deterrents exist for these problems and for the most part damage can be avoided if you are attentive and persistent. Fungal diseases can also impact trillium in the garden, and it is important to provide good airflow and treat with fungicide or remove infected leaves to avoid disease spread. It can be expensive to buy mature plants, particularly for the less common species, but *Trillium* germinates readily from seed in controlled settings and this method is much cheaper and will end up giving you many more plants.

The one drawback is that you must possess extreme patience because most species take at least seven years to flower from seed. Out in the garden there are certain tricks to encourage faster spreading of your trillium. After the plant is finished flowering, you can dig up mature rhizomes and cut them into two pieces just a bit down from where the stem had emerged and then replant both sections of the rhizome. Doing this will encourage dormant buds farther down on the rhizome to produce stems the following spring. Established plants that have “clumped up” can be dug and the rhizomes divided in the way that many other plants are. Be sure to use

clean tools and consider using antifungal powder when working with the rhizomes.

Over the past few years, we have greatly increased our collection of *Trillium* throughout the garden and along with the relatively new Trillium Trail. The idea of improving our trillium collection was spurred on when we were given permission to salvage western trillium from a forested area nearby that was slated to be destroyed for commercial development. We have added to this bulk of free plants by steadily sourcing different species from nurseries and growers both in Washington, and across the country. We have also begun collecting seeds from these plants so that we can add even more to the garden and offer some of the *Trillium* for sale in the future. As of this spring, we have 32 taxa (including subspecies and forms) in the garden, and we hope that most of these will continue to thrive even as we try to add new *Trillium* every year. Early April through mid-May is the best time of year to see most of our *Trillium* in flower, but already many of these plants have pushed their way up through the soil and are beginning to bloom again.



*Trillium kurabayashii*

## Upcoming Garden Events

### Pop-Up Plant Vendor Weekends

Saturdays and Sundays | March to May

Throughout late March, April and May, the garden will host featured vendor weekends in partnership with local nurseries. Shop for rare plants, perennials, natives, succulents, houseplants, groundcovers, trees, and plants for all growing conditions.

### Rhododendron Species Symposium 2025

April 25-26, 2025

Don't miss out on an unforgettable experience at the 2025 Rhododendron Species Symposium, hosted by the RSBG with generous support of the Helen G. Walker Foundation. Join us for an inspiring two-day event in Federal Way, Washington, where gardeners, plant lovers, and experts from around the world come together to celebrate the beauty, science, and artistry of gardening.

### Mother's Day Weekend

May 10-11 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate mom as you stroll through 13 unique garden features, enjoy live musical performances, shop in an outdoor art market, find rare plants for sale in our onsite nursery, and dine from sweet and savory food trucks surrounded by brilliant botanicals at peak-bloom.

### Blue Poppy Day

May 17 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Walk through a mystical Himalayan blue poppy, Meconopsis meadow. Enjoy an outdoor art market, food trucks, and plant sales in a woodland garden at peak-bloom.

### SummerFest at the Garden (FREE ADMISSION)

June 21 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us for SummerFest! Celebrate with the community while enjoying family-friendly activities, exploring a vibrant outdoor art market, and indulging in delicious food.



## 2025 Spring Catalog

Shop a wide selection of unique perennials, rare rhododendrons, and beautiful hybrids. While we specialize in plants for woodland gardens, we have dozens of selections that can thrive in a variety of conditions, including full sun.

**INTERNATIONAL DEADLINE: APRIL 16**

**DOMESTIC DEADLINE: APRIL 30**

**START SHOPPING HERE**



## 2024 Volunteer Recognition

Our amazing volunteers generously contributed over 1,100 hours of hard work to the garden. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your time, dedication, and unwavering effort in helping the garden thrive and continue to fulfill its mission. We couldn't have done it without you.

Anne Caughey  
Celine Ingvaldstad  
Clarice Clark  
Craig Cummings  
Florence Williams  
Garratt Richardson  
George Lewis  
Jo Laskowski  
Karl Hilsenberg  
Kimberly Toal  
Mark Tarlton  
Matt Houghton  
Paul Thompson  
Prakairut Sastrasinh  
Stephanie Sallaska  
Trina Colburn

*thank  
you*

## PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

The RSBG Photo Committee is committed to capturing the beauty of our rhododendron collection. We are seeking photographers to document specimens with high-quality, technical photos, including an image of the official accession documentation tag for each specimen.

Photos must adhere to a standardized format to be valid for the archive collection. As part of the team, you will join a passionate group of rhododendron enthusiasts who can offer valuable photography tips, while also expanding your knowledge of the 1,000 species in our collection and their taxonomy.

Our photo archive already boasts over 5,000 images, but with new additions (accessions) and opportunities to improve existing photos, there's plenty of work to be done. You will also have the chance to capture landscape shots and document garden events.

If interested, please contact:  
Keith White, Photography Committee Chair  
Phone: 503-559-5796 | Email: [rhodoc@msn.com](mailto:rhodoc@msn.com)



*R. griersonianum*

# Membership Matters | September 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025

A warm welcome to our new RSBG members!

The garden is deeply grateful to all of our members—whether you've been with us from the very start, are a loyal supporter who renews each year, or are a new addition to the RSBG family.

Your enduring support helps us fulfill our mission of conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and the distribution of *Rhododendron* species for generations to come. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.

Anato, Ann  
Bailey, Kimberly  
Brice, Aaron  
Brooks, Lorraine  
Castillo, Uriaz  
Chen, Emma  
Cole-Reichardt, Judy  
Collins, Greg  
Cong, Sen  
Cooper, Diane  
Coulson, Melanie  
Crossney, Scott  
David, Robert  
Edwards, Travis  
Fadavi, James  
Ferreira, Dylan  
Glenn, Jarred  
Guiney, Donald  
Gurilyova, Katya  
Hatileberg, Linda  
Ho, Perry  
Hopper, Kenneth  
Hudson, Laura  
Hunsaker, Tim  
Kartheiser, Ryan  
Keller, Rachel  
Kelso, Alisha  
Kharitonova, Iolanta  
Kinzler, Patrick & Lily  
Latino, Nicholas  
Lee, Stephen  
Lee, Willa  
Liftin, Denise  
Light, Kathy  
Love, Robin  
Lund, Jill  
Lutz, Lisa  
MacNeil, John

Mann, David  
Margelony, R. Theo  
McLaughlin, Morgen  
Melgaard, Sue  
O'Grady, Sharon  
Oxholm, Susan  
Patti Alexa  
Perez, Javier  
Premont, Bryan  
Rosen, David  
Ryf, Celestin  
Sabo, Kathleen  
Schuyler, Ben  
Scumniotales, Jackie  
Sharafian, Steven  
Shoner, Steven  
Siegel, Zarek  
Sowizral, Nicholas  
Sparler, Daniel  
Stearns, Amanda Jacobs  
Summerson, Joseph  
Tea, Kaitlin  
Turner, Elaine Mary  
Ullery, Dianna  
Varga, Christine  
Vendlinski, Tim  
Willis, John  
Zamalloa, Loyda





# Donor Appreciation | September 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025

## GENERAL OPERATIONS

### CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

ARS Middle Atlantic Chapter  
Bishop, Rich  
Brooks, Walt  
Cale, Edward and Carolyn  
Clark, Susan  
Ecklund, Earl  
Fairfield, Richard  
Fishman, Laana  
Goetsch, Loretta A.  
Guiney, Donald  
Hamel, Anita  
Hansen, Debra  
Hasche-Kluender, Hans  
Henkins, Deena J.  
Kaiden, Phyllis  
Keck, Ian  
Knogle, Dave & Glenda Johnson  
Lecrone Lee, Judith  
Lewis, George E.  
Melrose, Peter P.  
Moulton, Martha  
Muir, Jean  
Nelson, Margaret & Allen  
Puget Sound Garden Fling  
Robbins, Martha  
Talley, Alicia  
Van Patton, Peg  
Wagner, Jeff  
Walker, Ian P.  
Wells Medina Nursery  
Willamette Valley Hardy Plant  
Group  
Williamson, Lee  
Withey Price Landscape &  
Design  
Wolfenden, Timothy

## EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS

Benjamin & Margaret Hall  
Foundation

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

ARS Pilchuck Chapter  
Bartlett, Robert A. Jr.  
Bell, Dianne  
Bland, Don  
Burnet, Thorton  
Candiotta, Patty  
Church, Ann and Tom  
Cieri, Martin  
Clark, Bruce  
Crovello, Ted  
Dean, Robert & Judith  
Delaware Valley Chapter  
NARGS  
Eggers, Susan  
Flanigan, Thomas  
Heckler, Nancy  
Hogan, Carl and Betty  
Kang, J. H. John  
Kelly, Randall  
lee, Page  
Lichter, David  
Lintault, Katherine  
Marak, Stephen  
Maw, Keith W.  
McNally, Cathy  
Morris, Tom & Linda  
Muller, Martin  
Nelsen, Victoria  
Norton, Rebecca  
Olsen, Sue  
Parker, John  
Paulsen, Camille  
Read, Nancy  
Russell, Millie  
Swenson, Karen  
Thompson, Diane and Paul  
Van Den Meerendonk, John  
Walsh, Tim  
White, Keith A.  
Wilson, Sherri  
Wood, Anne  
Zech, Marcia and Klaus

## OFFICE RENOVATION

Anonymous

### UNDESIGNATED GIFT

Thompson, Diane and Paul

### RSBG JOURNAL

Walker, Ian P.

*thank  
you*

A planned gift is a powerful way to extend your support of the RSF beyond your lifetime. By making this thoughtful, long-term provision, you help ensure that the RSBG will continue to inspire and connect future generations with the wonders of the natural world.

Visit our website to learn more and enroll.

**RHODODENDRON**  
SPECIES BOTANICAL GARDEN

Open year-round  
Tuesday-Sunday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(253) 838-4646  
2525 S 336th Street  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
Located off I-5 between  
Seattle and Tacoma

[rhodygarden.org](http://rhodygarden.org)

# Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden Staff

## RSBG STAFF

Executive Director of Horticulture & Curator  
Executive Director of Business Operations  
Nursery Manager & Assistant Curator  
Rutherford Conservatory Horticulturist  
Horticulturist & Assistant Curator  
Assistant Nursery Manager & Retail Sales Manager  
Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator  
Marketing and Outreach Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
Visitor Services Representative

Steve Hootman  
Grace Pham  
Atsuko Gibson  
Kim Farmer  
Will Clausen  
Emily Joseph  
Emilio Pascua  
Alyssa Bitsie  
Janey O'Neil  
Cheryl Brammer



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Chip Muller, Second Vice President	Seattle, Washington
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