
Rhododendrons: Landscaping Attributes

When you start learning about different Rhododendrons, you quickly find that within the genus and its hybrids there are tremendous varieties of flower colors and shapes, growth habits, leaf shapes, hairs and other interesting attributes. Some are easily grown and others require very special conditions. Here are some lists of Rhododendrons useful in different ways to your landscaping and gardening plans. Although these lists are incomplete by necessity, you will find many helpful suggestions at the meetings of the local American Rhododendron Society chapters. Come to a chapter meeting and learn more about this fascinating genus; we are looking forward to greeting you!

Easy Species Rhododendrons

For the Small Garden:

R. calostrotum, campylogynum, dauricum, fastigiatum, R. ferrugineum, fletcherianum, hippophaeoides, impeditum, keleticum, kiusianum, microgynum, mucronulatum, pemakoense, polycladum, pseudochrysanthum, schlippenbachii, williamsianum, yakushmanum, and many others.

For the Larger Garden:

R. arboreum, augustinii, auriculatum, brachycarpum, bureavii, calophytum, catawbiense, decorum, rex ssp. fictolacteum, insigne, oreodoxa, rubiginosum, wardii, wiltonii, yunnanense, and many others.

Rhododendrons with Fragrance

R. auriculatum, decorum, edgeworthii, fortunei, diaprepes, luteum, occidentale, 'Loderi', 'Naomi', 'Polar Beat', 'Lavender Girl', 'Lodauric', 'Aladdin', and many deciduous azaleas.

Rhododendrons with Attractive Leaves

Indumentum (thick fuzzy or velvety hairs on the underside of leaves, sometimes on top):

R. argyrophyllum, bureavii, elegantulum, insigne, pachysanthum, principis, recurvoides, roxieanum, tsariense, yakushmanum, 'Ken Janeck' and other hybrids of R. yakushmanum, 'Sir Charles Lemon' and dozens more.

Blue Leaves:

R. campanulatum ssp. aeruginosum, fastigiatum, impeditum, lepidostylum, mekongense Viridescens, oreotrephes, thomsonii, 'Intrifast'.

Rounded Leaves:

R. campylocarpum, orbiculare, souliei, thomsonii, wardii, williamsianum, 'Bow Bells', 'Linda', 'Moonstone'.

Rhododendrons for More Severe Climates

R. brachycarpum, catawbiense, dauricum, hyperythrum, 'Bashful', 'Fastuosum Flore Pleno', 'GomerWaterer', 'Nova Zembia', 'P.J.M.', 'Ramapo', 'Roseum Elegans', 'Scarlet Wonder', 'Scintillation'.

References:

Cox, K. *A Plantsman's Guide to Rhododendrons*, Ward Lock, Ltd., London 1989.

Greer, H.E. *Greer's Guide to Available Rhododendrons*, 3rd Ed., Offshoot Publications, Eugene, 1996.