

ARNOLDIA



A continuation of the
BULLETIN OF POPULAR INFORMATION
of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

VOLUME 9

JULY 1, 1949

NUMBERS 7-8

FLOWER COLORS OF HARDY HYBRID RHODODENDRONS

THE hybrid broad-leaved evergreen rhododendrons are most conspicuous during early June. If grown in fertile, acid soil, mulched properly and pruned properly (see ARNOLDIA, Vol. 8, No. 8, September, 1948) they should produce a bright display of flowers annually. The collection in the Arnold Arboretum is over fifty years old and has been added to continually from year to year. Rhododendron enthusiasts are continually studying this collection, noting the differences between the many varieties now being grown. Not all that are available in the eastern United States nurseries are here, but many are, and it serves a valuable purpose, at the same time making a splendid display.

It is most difficult to properly identify the many hardy rhododendron hybrids. The species are of course keyed out in standard botanical keys, but there is little easily available information about the identification of hybrids grown in the East. There are no colored pictures or paintings sufficiently accurate for this purpose, nor are there suitable descriptions of the flower colors. Articles for popular periodicals are numerous, but color descriptions in these are entirely too general. The term "crimson flowers" may cover a dozen or more varieties, each one of which does differ slightly from the others. Size of truss, of flower, markings on corolla and even the color of the stamens and pistils are all aides in identification.

Consequently, we have started an attempt at the proper description of hybrid varieties, growing in our collection, by the careful comparison of colors of the flowers as they bloomed this year, with the colors of the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart. This has its drawbacks, as anyone familiar with plants is quick to point out. In the first place, the color of the flowers varies slightly depending on whether they open in shade or full sun. The size of the flower varies according to the amount of nourishment the roots are able to receive. Flowers quickly fade in full sunlight -- this and many other criticisms can be justly leveled at any such comparison.

However, an attempt is here made to enumerate the respective characteristics of the rhododendron hybrids as they performed with us this year, all growing in the same soil together, under the same conditions. Readings and comparisons were made from a representative flower truss in full bloom. Even with the weaknesses of this method, the resulting information is valuable. It aids materially in pointing out the fact that there are many varieties being grown, several of which will give the same landscape effect. True, there may be slight differences in color or size of corolla or flower truss, or the markings or the colors of the pistil and stamens may differ slightly, affording reason for different varietal names, but when some 50 named varieties are brought together in a single room for comparison, similarities are striking and should be emphasized.

Judging them from the viewpoint of their **serviceability in the landscape**, there are many which are **practically identical**. This is important. There is a slight variation in time of bloom; some come earlier than others, and the trusses of some are more dense and larger than others—reasons why certain growers prefer some rather than others. The following list, it is hoped, is only a start at the time-consuming task of comparing all the varieties grown in the East. Whether or not this means of identification has merit can best be judged by each individual rhododendron enthusiast. Comments on this method of approach and the measurements given for these varieties will be greatly appreciated.

Flower Colors of Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons

Group I White (General landscape effect)

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Rhododendron caucasicum coriaceum</i> | pure white |
| Truss: $3\frac{1}{2}$ " high and 5" wide; loose, rounded | |
| 12 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ " | |
| Markings inside corolla: Chartreuse green (663/1) | |
| Style and stigma reddish;* base of corolla outside pale reddish; blooms early | |
| <i>Rhododendron</i> "Boule de Neige" | pure white |
| Truss: 4" high and 6" wide; compact, rounded | |
| 14 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ " | |
| Markings inside corolla: Chartreuse green (663/1) | |
| Edge of petals slightly frilled;** plant blooms early. | |
| <i>Rhododendron</i> "Baroness Henry Schroeder" | white |
| Truss: 3" high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; loose, rounded | |
| 14 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ " | |
| Markings inside corolla: Cyclamen purple (30/1) | |
| Plant blooms early. | |

*Pistils and stamens are whitish unless otherwise noted.

**Petal margins not frilled unless otherwise indicated.

Group II Pale Blush Pink to Whitish

Rhododendron "Album elegans" Dawn pink (523/3) fading white in center
Truss: 5'' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
18 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: Primrose yellow (601/2)
Stigma red, style pink.

Rhododendron "Sultana" Dawn pink (523/3) fading to white
Truss: 4'' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
12 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: Majolica yellow (09/1) pronounced
Anthers purplish; blooms last of all those listed here.

Rhododendron catawbiense album Neyron rose (623/3) to whitish
Truss: $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
20 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{4}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: Primrose yellow (601/1) very faint and few.

Rhododendron "Album grandiflorum" Neyron rose (623/3) to whitish
Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, pyramidal
18 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: greenish yellow (64/2) few and inconspicuous
Stigma red, margins of petals slightly frilled.

Rhododendron "Delicatissimum" Rose madder (23/3) fading to white at center
Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; loose-dense, rounded
14 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{1}{4}$ '' diameter
Markings inside corolla: Greenish yellow (64/1) pronounced
Stigma red. This truss is similar to but not as good as "Album grandiflorum."

Rhododendron "Albert" Rose madder (23/3) center whitish
Truss: $3\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and 6'' wide; dense, round
16 flowers in truss; flower diameter 3''
Markings inside corolla: brownish

Rhododendron "Candidissimum" Rose madder (23/3)
Truss: 4'' high and 6'' wide; dense, rounded
12 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763/3) few and inconspicuous

Rhododendron watereri Rose pink (427/1)
Truss: 5'' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
20 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{3}{4}$ ''
Markings inside corolla: brownish

Group III Pale Pink (General landscape effect)

Rhododendron "Anton" Roseine purple (629/2) fairly uniform
Truss: $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
18 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ''

Markings inside corolla: greenish to brownish

Stamens and pistil pinkish; petals slightly frilled.

Rhododendron "Bella"

Amaranth rose (530/2) uniform

Truss: 3" high and 5" wide; dense, rounded

14 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

Markings inside corolla: Yellow ochre (o7)

Stamens and pistils pinkish; petal margins frilled.

Rhododendron "Duke of York"

Amaranth rose (530/1) to whitish

Truss: $5\frac{1}{2}$ " high and 7" wide; loose, rounded

12 flowers in truss; flower diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

Markings inside corolla: Uranium green (63/2)

7 petals in corolla; color at tip of petals only.

Rhododendron "President Lincoln"

Phlox purple (632/3) uniform

Truss: $4\frac{1}{2}$ " high and 5" wide; dense, rounded

26 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

Markings inside corolla: brownish

Stamens and pistil pinkish.

Rhododendron "Arno"

Rose purple (533/1) to white in center

Truss: 4" high and 6" wide; dense, pyramidal

26 flowers in cluster; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931) prominent

Pink to Deep Pink (General landscape effect)

Rhododendron "Lady Armstrong"

Solferino purple (26/2)

Truss: 5" high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; dense, pyramidal

24 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter

Markings inside corolla: Ruby red (827/3) few

Stigma red; style and stamens pinkish near tip.

Rhododendron "Henrietta Sargent"

Fuchsine pink (627/1)

Truss: 4" high and 6" wide; dense, rounded

14 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter

Markings inside corolla: brown to greenish

Stigma red; styles and stamens pink.

Rhododendron "James Bateman"

Fuchsine pink (627/1)

Truss: 4" high and 6" wide; dense, rounded

18 flowers in cluster; flowers $3\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Stigma red; Style and stamens Fuchsine pink

Rhododendron "Flushing"

Magenta (27/1)

Truss: 4" high and 6" wide; dense, rounded

18 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Stigma and style red; stamens purplish

- Rhododendron* "Daisy" Magenta (27/1)
 Truss: 3'' high and 4½'' wide; dense, rounded
 16 flowers in truss; flowers 2½'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Barium yellow (503)
 Stigma red; style and stamens pinkish. Blooms early. Petals slightly frilled.
- Rhododendron* "Ignatius Sargent" Tyrian purple (727/2)
 Truss: 3½'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded
 14 flowers in truss; flowers 3'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: brownish, pronounced
 Stigma nearly black, styles red, stamens pale pink, petals slightly frilled on margin.
- Rhododendron* "Desiderius" Persian rose (628/1)
 Flowers 2¼'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Uranium green (63/2)
 Stigma red; style and stamens pink; blooms early.
- Rhododendron* "Alarich" Fuschia purple (28/1)
 Truss: 3½'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded
 20 flowers in truss; flowers 2¼'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931) few, pronounced
 Stigma nearly black; style and stamens purplish.
- Rhododendron* "Caractacus" Fuschia purple (28/1)
 Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded
 18 flowers in truss; flowers 3'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763) not conspicuous
 Pistil and stamens red.
- Rhododendron* "General Grant" Fuschia purple (28/1)
 Truss: 3'' high and 4½'' wide; dense, rounded
 14 flowers in truss; flowers 2¼'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Garnet lake (828) few
 Stigma nearly black; stamens Fuchsia purple; style lighter.
- Rhododendron* "Kettledrum" Roseine purple (629)
 Truss: 3'' high and 4½'' wide; dense, rounded
 14 flowers in truss; flowers 3'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763)
 Pistil and stamens reddish.
- Rhododendron* "Adelbert" Roseine purple (629) uniform
 Truss: 4'' high and 5½'' wide; dense, rounded
 22 flowers in truss; flowers 3'' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931) pronounced
 Pistil and stamens pinkish; margin of petals slightly frilled; almost identical with "Echse" except for color of stamens and pistil.

- Rhododendron* "Echse" Roseine purple (629) uniform
 Truss: 5'' high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, pyramidal
 18 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931) pronounced
 Stigma deep red, style and stamens white; margins of petals slightly frilled.
- Rhododendron* "Hannah Felix" Roseine purple (629)
 Truss: 3'' high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, rounded
 20 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Beetroot purple (830/1) pronounced
 Stigma red; style and stamens reddish; blooms early; color of flowers almost uniform except under corolla markings, where it is whitish.
- Rhododendron* "Bicolor" Roseine purple (629/1)
 Truss: 4'' high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, rounded
 22 flowers in truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ''
 Markings inside corolla: Pansy purple (928/3)
 Stamens and pistil pink.
- Rhododendron* "Mrs. C. S. Sargent" Roseine purple (629/1)
 Truss: $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and 6'' wide; dense, rounded
 17 flowers in truss; flowers $3\frac{1}{4}$ '' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Greenish
 Pistil and stamens Roseine purple; petal margins frilled.
- Rhododendron* "Eva" Roseine purple (629/2)
 Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded
 22 flowers in truss; flower diameter 3''
 Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763)
 Stigma red; style and stamens pink; edge of petals frilled.
- Rhododendron* "Everestianum" Roseine purple (629/2)
 Truss: $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and 6'' wide; dense, pyramidal
 18 flowers in cluster; flowers $2\frac{1}{2}$ '' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Greenish to brown
 Pistil and stamens pinkish; petal margins slightly frilled.
- Rhododendron* "Mrs. Milner" Rhodamine purple (29/1)
 Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, pyramidal
 16 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide
 Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)
 Stigma black; style and stamens Rhodamine purple.
- Rhododendron* "Parson Gofe" Rhodamine purple (29/2)
 Truss: 5'' high and 5'' wide; dense, pyramidal
 25 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter
 Markings inside corolla: Chartreuse green (663) few
 Stigma black; style red; stamens Rhodamine purple.

Rhododendron Collection in flower at the base of Hemlock Hill.



Rhododendron "Roseum elegans" Rhodamine purple (29/2)

Truss: 4'' high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, slightly pyramidal

20 flowers in truss; flower diameter 3''

Markings inside corolla; Chartreuse green (663) few

Markings not pronounced; center of flower white.

Rhododendron "Fee" Cyclamen purple (30/2)

Truss: $3\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, rounded

20 flowers to truss; flower diameter $2\frac{1}{2}$ ''

Markings inside corolla: Pansy purple (928) pronounced

Stamens and pistil reddish.

Group V Red to Reddish (General landscape effect)

Rhododendron "Charles Dickens" Spiraea red (o25)

Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; loose-dense, rounded

16 flowers in truss: flowers $2\frac{1}{4}$ '' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Pistils and stamens Spiraea red.

Rhododendron "Charles Bagley" Fuchsine pink (627)

Truss: 5'' high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, pyramidal

18 flowers in truss; flowers 3'' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763)

Stamens and pistils pink.

Rhododendron "Norma" Fuchsia purple (28)

Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded

18 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Greenish

Stamens and pistil purplish; blooms early.

Rhododendron "Daisy Rand" Rhodamine purple (29/1)

Truss: 3'' high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; dense, rounded

15 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{1}{2}$ '' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931) few

Stigma black; style whitish; stamens purplish.

Rhododendron "James MacIntosh" Rhodamine purple (29/1)

Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; semi-dense, rounded

17 flowers in truss; flower $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Stamens and pistil Rhodamine purple.

Rhododendron "Atrosanguineum" Peony purple (729/2)

Truss: $2\frac{1}{2}$ '' high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ '' wide; loose, rounded

14 flowers in truss; flowers $2\frac{3}{4}$ '' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Stamens and pistil Peony purple; blooms early.

Rhododendron "H. W. Sargent"

Peony purple (729/2)

Truss: 3'' high and 4½'' wide

14 flowers in truss; flowers 2¼'' diameter

Markings inside corolla: Dahlia purple (931)

Stamens and pistil Peony purple.

Group VI Purple (General landscape effect)

Rhododendron "Lee's Purple"

Imperial purple (33/1)

Truss: 4½'' high and 6'' wide; dense, rounded

18 flowers in cluster; flower diameter 2¾''

Markings inside corolla: Brownish, conspicuous

Darkest purple of any varieties in this list.

Pistil and stamens red.

Rhododendron "Purpureum grandiflorum"

Imperial purple (33/2)

Truss: 4'' high and 7'' wide; dense, rounded

16 flowers in cluster; flower diameter 3''

Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763)

Stamens and pistil reddish.

Rhododendron "Purpureum elegans"

Amethyst violet (35/2)

Truss: 4'' high and 6'' wide; dense, rounded

16 flowers in truss; flower diameter 2¾''

Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763) prominent

Pistil reddish; stamens purplish.

Rhododendron "Melton"

Lilac purple (o31/1)

Truss: 3½'' high and 5'' wide; dense, rounded

14 flowers in truss; flower diameter 3¼''

Markings inside corolla: Maroon (1030)

Stigma black; stamens and style whitish.

Rhododendron "Mrs. Harry Ingersoll"

Lilac purple (o31/1)

Truss: 4'' high and 5'' wide; dense, pyramidal

14 flowers in truss; flower diameter 2½''

Markings inside corolla: Citron green (763)

Stigma whitish, stamens purplish. A whitish condition of petal underneath markings gives a unique color.

It will be noted that no varieties in this group are starred for being "the best." E. H. Wilson and many others have made such lists which may or may not be serviceable today. This issue of ARNOLDIA will have served its purpose well if it brings to the attention of all rhododendron enthusiasts the very important fact that there is a striking similarity among the colors of many of these rhododendrons. Only a comparatively few varieties need be grown for general landscape purposes.

DONALD WYMAN



Wyman, Donald. 1949. "Flower Colors of Hardy Hybrid Rhododendrons." *Arnoldia* 9(7-8), 29–36.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/228609>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/249254>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

IMLS LG-70-15-0138-15

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.