

the Rocky Mountain chain. The five sections deal with "Northern Rockies: Glacier and Muskeg," "Middle Rockies: Sagebrush and Scree," "Southern Rockies: Peaks and Parklands," "Colorado Plateau: Canyons and Color," and "Western Drylands: Plains and Plateaus." Chapters within each section describe a particular area, "walking" the reader onto a trail and describing plants to be found along the way. A map of the area to be discussed precedes each chapter.

For the rock gardener, Part Three (on Rocky Mountain plants in cultivation) is the most valuable part of the book. It, in turn, is divided into three sections. The first deals with Denver Botanic Gardens's experience with these plants in cultivation in the Rocky Mountains. It has six pages of valuable information on seed propagation. In my opinion, Denver Botanic Gardens have an excellent, world-class rock garden. The second section, "In the Garden: Adapting to Microclimates," is probably the most uneven portion of the book. I find it to be more of an eclectic grouping of information on the cultivation of plants than a discussion about adapting to microclimates. It deals with cultivation under lights and in troughs (containers), commercial production, cultivation in a rare-plant nursery and in dry sand, cultivation on hummocks, and the overall design of private gardens. The information on culture is good and should be helpful to gardeners attempting to cultivate plants from the drylands of the West in more humid climates. The third section, "Around the World: Adapting to Different Climates," has chapters on the cultivation of Rocky Mountain alpine plants in the Northeast, the Midwest, and the Northwest regions

of the United States; Great Britain; Iceland; Czechoslovakia; and Japan. This section, too, is uneven in quality. The information about climatic conditions and on providing proper growing conditions in the various countries or regions is helpful. Brief, one- or two-line items about individual plants are sometimes useful, often cryptic.

Rocky Mountain Alpines provides a guide to areas worth visiting for the sake of their floras, whetting the reader's appetite. Its discussions of propagation and cultivation lend hope to the lowland gardener. Most importantly, it focusses attention at last on the fascinating flora of the Rocky Mountains. Growers of exhibition dahlias probably will find little of interest in the book. Rock gardeners will love it.

Judy Glattstein, a landscape consultant, who specializes in perennial-border design and the use of native plants in the landscape, chairs the American Rock Garden Society's Connecticut Chapter. She is an instructor at The New York Botanical Garden and at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.

Azaleas, by Fred Galle. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, 1985. 438 pages. \$65.00.

C. J. PATTERSON

There has been a need for a comprehensive book on azaleas for a long time, a situation aggravated by the avalanche of new information and registered cultivars over the last ten years. Dr. Fred C. Galle, retired director of Callaway Gardens in

Georgia, has undertaken to write just such a book.

His credentials for the task are impressive. Decades of devoted work at Callaway Gardens have given him direct experience with the horticultural side of evergreen azaleas, and a personal enthusiasm for our native deciduous azaleas (the subject of his doctoral dissertation) has schooled him as a botanist. He is a hybridizer and has introduced both his own azalea hybrids and selections, taken from the wild, of native species and natural hybrids. In addition, he is by nature a careful, meticulous, scholarly worker, with a writing style that flows very smoothly and is easy to read. To expand the scope of his book he has brought in assistance on the technical chapters on hybridizing and diseases.

The book begins simply, with a discussion on the use of color. The heart of the book begins with a set of wonderful keys and a very brief treatment of azalea nomenclature and taxonomy. Deciduous and evergreen azaleas are discussed separately in a format that describes all the species in that section first and then deals with the hybrids of that section.

Dr. Galle has divided the hybrids into groups according to hybridizer, parentage, and/or place of origin, forming a series of lists. Each cultivar is described by hybridizer, parentage (where known), date of introduction and/or registration, size, growth habit, and color. The lists make up the bulk—about three-fifths—of the text.

The lists can be confusing because azalea varieties have frequently been segregated into new categories, where before the varieties had been combined in the public's mind. There is, fortunately, an index of all the named

varieties, which allows one to find a particular azalea, even in total ignorance of its origins or hybridizer.

The book closes with very readable and clear chapters on pests and diseases, cultivation, hybridizers, azalea introductions, and lists of azaleas under several headings.

Unfortunately, *Azaleas* is not without flaws. It is a very large volume, six hundred pages in a large format (including three hundred sixty-six color plates) and deals with a complex subject. No reasonable reader demands perfection in a book of such size and scope, but the editing of *Azaleas* (the publisher's responsibility) is worse than usual. Inaccuracies and misspellings dot the work like plums in a pudding, detracting from the whole. The index is inaccurate, and the photography is mediocre, with many dark, ill-defined, and blurred shots—not to mention one photograph that is upsidedown.

Yet not only the editing could have been better. I can only say that any reader not already thoroughly familiar with the taxonomy of deciduous azaleas would have to come away frustrated, confused, and disappointed from the chapter on that subject. After explaining that the classification of deciduous azaleas is controversial and presenting a tantalizing "tip of the iceberg," Dr. Galle proceeds to pick one system to use and blithely continues using it, failing to tell us why he chose it, or even to explain clearly how the systems differ from one another. In fact, he dismisses years of careful research on this difficult and important problem (including his own) by presenting an outline of other books that have published the research results. Even a casual reader is likely to want at least a summary of the research; the serious reader

is genuinely hampered in his understanding of this section. There is the additional annoyance of having paid more than sixty dollars for a "complete" work on azaleas only to be referred to other books for the information one seeks. Add to this the long list of new evergreen azalea species about which only sketchy information is yet available and one is left with the suspicion that we will need yet another "definitive work" on azaleas in the not distant future.

Despite its flaws, *Azaleas* is still the best and most complete (and certainly the most ambitious) reference work devoted solely to azaleas yet written. Every good horticultural library should own it, and I am sure that many private gardeners and gardens would benefit enormously from its enthusiastic treatment of this important group of plants.

C. J. Patterson is one of the mainstays of the Arnold Arboretum's Plant Information Hotline. A member of the American Rhododendron Society, she is an avid grower and collector of native deciduous species of azalea.

U. S POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U. S. C. 3685)

1. Title of publication: *Arnoldia*. A. Publication Number: 0004-2633. 2. Date of filing: October 20, 1986. 3. Frequency of issue: Quarterly. A. Number of issues published annually: 4. Annual subscription price: \$12 domestic, \$15 foreign. 4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: The Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (Boston), Suffolk County, MA 02130-2795. 5. Complete mailing address of general business office of the publisher: The Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (Boston), Suffolk County, MA 02130-2795. 6. Full names and complete addresses of publisher and editor: The Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (Boston), Suffolk County, MA 02130-2795, publisher; Edmund A. Schofield, The Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA 02130-2795, editor. 7. Owner: The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA 02130-2795. 8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None. 9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 411.3, DMM only): The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. 10. Extent and nature of circulation: A. Total number of copies. Average number of copies each issue during the preceding 12 months: 4,750. Actual number of copies single issue published nearest to filing date: 5,000. B. Paid circulation. 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: None. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: None. 2. Mail subscription. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 608. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 615. D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means (sample, complimentary, and other free copies). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 3,025. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 3,057. E. Total distribution. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 3,633. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 3,672. F. Copies not distributed. 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted for, spoiled after printing. Average number of copies of each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,117. Actual number of copies single issue published nearest to filing date: 1,328. 2. Return from news agents. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: None. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: None. G. Total. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 4,750. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 5,000. 11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Edmund A. Schofield, Editor.



Patterson, C J. 1987. "Azaleas, by Fred Galle [Book Review]." *Arnoldia* 47(1), 30–32.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/217532>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/308683>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

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>.