some of them can be kept alive here for a great many years but they require special care. The soil in which they grow best has to be specially prepared for them; they require shelter from the sun of early spring, and a great deal of moisture. Of late years they have suffered terribly from the attacks of the lace-wing fly which turns the leaves brown and makes them fall prematurely, thus weakening the plant. Rhododendrons, like many other plants of the Heath Family, cannot grow in soil impregnated with lime; they are not hardy very far north of Boston, and south of Philadelphia, except in the elevated regions of the interior, it is too hot for them in summer, so that the region in the eastern states where these plants can be grown at all is not a large one. Here in eastern Massachusetts there are only four species of broad-leaved evergreen Rhododendrons which are perfectly hardy; these are the native *R. maximum*, *R. catawbiense* from the high slopes of the southern Appalachian Mountains, *R. carolinianum* from the same region, and *R. Smirnowii* from the Caucasus, and if we can hope for a race of hybrid Rhododendrons better suited to the conditions of the New England climate than any we now possess, it will be obtained by mingling the blood of these four species and by excluding entirely the blood of the Himalayan species to which the garden Rhododendrons of Europe owe a large part of the brilliancy of their flowers.

Rhododendron Smirnowii. This is a plant from which a good deal may be expected. It has been growing in the Arboretum for several years and has not suffered from cold or drought. When, however, the plant is fully exposed to the sun the leaves often droop and their edges infold, and it does better in partial shade. The leaves are pale grayish green above and below are thickly covered with pale felt which successfully protects them from the attacks of the lace-wing fly. The flowers are of good size and of pleasant shades of pink or rosy pink, and are borne in large clusters. As compared with the dark green leaves of *R. catawbiense* those of this plant are less attractive, but the flowers are much more beautiful in color and are equally large. Several hybrids of *R. Smirnowii* with varieties of *R. catawbiense* have been raised in Europe, and there are a few of these in the Arboretum collection. They have proved to be good garden plants here, flowering earlier than *R. Smirnowii* and producing larger pink flowers; they have never been injured in the Arboretum, but as there is only a trace of the felt left on their leaves they will probably suffer from the lace-wing fly. *Rhododendron carolinianum* is said to have suffered last winter in a few places near Boston, but it was uninjured in the Arboretum and in several other Massachusetts gardens. It is the most beautiful of the dwarf small-flowered Rhododendrons which can be grown in this climate and may prove valuable to cross with other species. It has now been out of flower for more than two weeks. *Rhododendron Smirnowii* is now at its best. The flowers on *R. catawbiense* are just opening, and those on *R. maximum* will not be out for another fortnight. The flowers of a few of the Catawbiense hybrids are in bloom but most Rhododendrons are late this year, and many of them are only beginning to show the color of their flowers through the opening bud-scales.

1915. "Rhododendron Smirnowii." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(7), 27-27. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320353>.

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