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 speci-
ally 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. Smirnovii* from the Caucasus, and if we can
hope for a race of hybrid Rhododendrons better suited to the condi-
tions 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
together the blood of the Himalayan species to which the garden Rhod-
dendrons of Europe owe a large part of the brilliancy of their flowers.

**Rhododendron Smirnovii.** 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. Smirnovii* 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. Smirnovii* 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-
ing fly. *Rhododendron carolinianum* is said to have suffered last
winter in a few places near Boston, but it was uninjured in the Arbor-
etum 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 Smirnovii* is now at its best. The flowers on *R. cataw-
biense* 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.