



"Niagara Rhodo" Newsletter of the The Niagara Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada April 2009

Our Purpose: We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote, encourage and support interest in the genus *rhododendron*. Our goal is to encourage gardeners to grow and appreciate these plants, by providing educational meetings with knowledgeable speakers, access to topical publications and hosting joint meetings with other chapters.

Inside This Month

1. Plant Sale Update
2. Planting Rhodos & Azaleas
3. Looking after that tender, indoor azalea



Rh. reticulatum

Thinking While Waiting for Spring

I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way.

Franklin P. Adams

Annual Rhododendron & Azalea Plant Sale

*With Unusual & Underused
Perennials & Shrubs*

**Saturday, April 25, 2009
10:00 a.m.**

Vineland Research Station (VRIC)
(Former Vineland HRIO)
Victoria Avenue, Vineland
See the web site for details

<http://www.rhodoniagara.org/plantsales.htm>



Where is Vineland Research Station (VRIC) ?

Vineland lies between St.Catharines and Beamsville on the QEW.
Follow the QEW toward Niagara (London, Hamilton, Toronto) or
Follow QEW toward Hamilton if driving from Fort Erie.

Exit at Victoria Avenue at Vineland; head in the Direction of Lake Ontario.
The Research Station is on the left side of Victoria Avenue as you drive toward Lake Ontario.

Basic Conditions Required by Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Rhododendron and Azaleas growing in natural, open field conditions have a root mass of very fine, hair-like roots that grow in a thick mass very close to the surface of the surrounding soil. They tend to spread out in a circle to a radius of 2 to 3 feet from the center stalk of the plant. **To survive and flourish, Rhododendrons and Azaleas continuously require air, moisture and nutrients at the roots.** Healthy development of rhododendrons and azaleas requires that the following conditions be met.

1. Soil should be loose and crumbly with a very high percentage of humus. A minimum of 50 percent extra- coarse, chunky, peat moss is recommended, plus other organic material. When amending existing soil, especially hard clay or very fine sandy soil, use equal parts of original soil, compost and coarse chunky peat moss.¹
2. Oxygen in the root system is a vital factor in maintaining healthy rhododendrons.
3. Soil must be consistently moist but never soggy. Adequate humus should hold enough moisture between rains, but watering may be necessary in drought conditions.
4. Sharp drainage is critical. Rhododendrons are mountain plants, growing where there is always down grade for excess water to drain away.
5. If existing garden soil is very heavy and/or poorly drained, keep the entire root system 6 to 8 inches above grade by creating a mound or berm, or a raised planting bed using a retaining curb such as logs, timbers or rocks.
6. Some sun, or at least bright light is necessary to encourage bud formation and compact growth.
7. Plants should be sheltered from the prevailing winter winds which desiccate the foliage.
8. Ideally, shade should be provided during the hottest part of the day in summer.
9. Shade in late February and through March, when the ground is frozen, may be important for some varieties as the strengthening sun may scorch the leaves.

Summer Care for Indoor Azaleas

Tender azaleas obtained from the florist or at a big box store require the same summer treatment as hardy rhododendrons or hardy azaleas.

1. Check to see whether or not the plant is pot bound. If not, simply make certain it is left in its original container in a partly shaded area and ***never*** allowed to dry out. Fertilize this plant in the same way as was described in our *March Newsletter*, following Peter Hannam's recommendations. Copies of past Newsletters are on the web site.
 - 1a. If the plant is pot bound: Remove the plant from the original pot, scarify the root ball thoroughly so that the roots are freed from the ball of soil and replant in a larger pot using new soil that is equal parts coarse, chunky peat moss, compost, composted pine bark mulch pine and perlite. This will provide excellent drainage and will at the same time maintain a moist growing medium. After the re-potting is complete, place the pot in a tub of water and water-in from below. When the top surface is moist place the plant in a bright shaded area and wait for the weather to turn cold in October. (*Use the weight of the wet pot as your guide as to when to water again. Occasionally, lift the pot to see how the weight has decreased as the soil dries out. When the top inch of soil in the pot is dry and the pot is about ¼ to ½ of its wet weight, it is time to water the pot. Again use the soak technique, to water from the bottom.*)
2. In the fall, as the outdoor temperatures approach 40F (5C), prepare the potted plant to come indoors. Spray wash the leaves and stem to remove any insects that the plant may harbour. Also, spray well with insecticidal soap, following manufacturer's recommendations. Allow the plant to experience at least one week of cold weather, but do not expose the plant to freezing temperatures.

We'll have more to say about winter care of indoor azaleas at the appropriate time.

For detailed information on how to deal with pot-bound plants and on specific planting instructions:

“Growing Rhododendrons Successfully”.

Ask for it from a Volunteer at the sale or go to the web site at:

<http://www.rhodoniagara.org/nickgrow.htm>

¹ In Niagara Region, the only known retail source of Chunky Peat Moss is Niagara Nurseries, 1643 Regional Rd 81, St Catharines, ON, L2R 6P7. Telephone: 905-682-4783. Peat Moss is now available in 3.5 cu.ft. bales.



2009 Annual Plant Sale

April 25, 2009

Plant List



<u>Deciduous Azaleas (2 Gal)</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Lepidotes & Elepidotes</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Paid</u>
ARNESON GEM	SOFT YELLOW ORANGE	\$25		ARCTIC PEARL(L)	White	\$15	
ARNESON RUBY	BRIGHT RED	\$25		APRIL ROSE (L)	Red Purple	\$15	
INNOCENCE (Weston's)	WHITE	\$25		APRIL SONG (L)	Lovely Pink	\$15	
LEMON DROP (Weston's)	YELLOW	\$25		CHECKMATE (L)	Lavender	\$15	
LOLLIPOP (Weston's)	PINK WHITE BLEND	\$25		CHERRY CHEESECAKE (L)	White - Red	\$12	
MANDARIN LIGHTS	BRIGHT RED ORANGE	\$25		CHARMANT (HACKMAN) (EL)	White red	\$12	
NORTHERN HI-LIGHTS	WHITE	\$25		HOT DAWN (EL)	Red	\$12	
POPSICLE (Weston's)	DARK PINK	\$25		THUNDER (L)	Lavender	\$12	
WHITE LIGHTS	WHITE	\$25		WHITE MUCRONULATUM (L)	White	\$12	
				JOHANNA (Ev Az)	Bright Red	\$12	
				TOTAL RHODODENDRONS & AZALEAS			
<u>Evergreen Azaleas (2 Gal)</u>							
				PLANTS FOR MEMBERS (P4M)	For Me mbers only		
MOTHER'S DAY	BRIGHT ROSY RED	\$25					
RENEE MICHELLE	DEEP PINK	\$25					
ROSEBUD	PINK	\$25		EVERGREEN AZALEAS			
STEWARTSTONIAN	ORANGE RED	\$25		KAEMPHERI "CORAL"	Bright Coral	\$5	
				PHYLLIS MOORE	White	\$12	
<u>Elepidotes (Large leaf 2 Gal)</u>							
CUNNINGHAM'S WHITE	WHITE	\$25		ELEPIDOTES (LARGE LEAF)			
NOVA ZEMBLA	RED	\$25		ADENOPODUM (SPECIES)	White - pink blotch	\$12	
PURPLE PASSION	PURPLE/LAVENDER	\$25		BLUE PETER AKA ARTHUR BEDFORD	Purple - White Blotch	\$12	
VERNUS	PINK	\$25		BRAVO	Li lavender	\$12	
HAAGA	PINK	\$25		CORDY'S PRIDE	White - Pink	\$12	
Yak FANTASTICA	RED	\$25		CROBER'S SMIRNOWII	Mauve - white	\$12	
Yak INGRID MEHLQUIST	PINK	\$25		DELPH SEEDLING		\$12	
HONG KONG	LIGHT YELLOW	\$25		GIGI	Red	\$12	
				JANET BLAIR X ODEE WRIGHT	Multicoloured	\$12	
<u>Lepidotes</u>				LOOYES ORIENT		\$12	
APRIL MIST (2 Gal)	PINK	\$25		MARGE HEINERMAN		\$12	
BUBBLEGUM (2 Gal)	PINK	\$25		MOONSHOT	Light Pink Multi	\$12	
CHECKMATE (2 Gal)	PURPLE/LAVENDER	\$25		SPELLBINDER	White-blotch	\$12	
MIDNIGHT RUBY (3 Gal)	RED	\$30		VINEBROOK	White Blotch	\$12	
CORNELL PINK (3 Gal)	PINK	\$30		VINEROUGE	Deep Red	\$12	
PJM COMPACT (2 Gal)	PURPLE/LAVENDER	\$25		VULCAN x MARS-YAK	Red - Yak	\$12	
WESTON'S AGLO (2 Gal)	PINK	\$25					
				LEPIDOTES (SMALL LEAF)			
				ILAM VIOLET	Blue-Violet	\$12	
				Total	P4M	\$	

Perennials & Flowering Shrubs
Please Write in Quantity & Total for each Variety Selected

	Price	#	\$		Price	#	\$
1. abeliophyllum or white forsythia	\$12	___	___	11. hellebore Mellow Yellow Mix	\$18	___	___
2. chinese witch hazel	\$15	___	___	12. hydrangea arborescens 'Hayes Starburst'	\$15	___	___
3. clethra Sixteen Candles	\$12	___	___	13. hydrangea arborescens White Dome	\$12	___	___
4. corydalis Berry Exciting	\$15	___	___	14. hydrangea macrophylla 'Parzival'	\$15	___	___
5. corylopsis pauciflora	\$15	___	___	15. hydrangea paniculata The Swan	\$15	___	___
6. corylopsis spicata	\$15	___	___	16. hydrangea serrata 'Coerulea Lace'	\$15	___	___
7. Echinacea Pink Double Delight <i>(These require full sun)</i>	\$15	___	___	17. hydrangea serrata Midoriboshi-Temari	\$18	___	___
8. Green Lace Primula	\$ 8	___	___	18. hydrangea serrata Myama-yae-Muraski	\$18	___	___
9. hellebore brushstrokes	\$15	___	___	19. Purple Leaf corydales	\$10	___	___
10. hellebore Golden Lotus	\$25	___	___	20. viburnum Shasta	\$15	___	___
				21. kalmias assorted	TBA	___	___
				22. Late additions	TBA	___	___

Total for all Perennials & Shrubs \$ _____

*Plant List for use at the Plant Sale
to Track Your Selections*

*Volunteers Wearing Name Tags
Will Help with Plant Selection*

*Make Selections
&
Proceed to Checkout*

*Please ask a Volunteer
To Help You Proceed To Checkout*

For Photographs Visit
<http://www.rhodoniagara.org>