

AgBud



A series of horticulture insights

Did you know?

The Rhododendron became the state flower of West Virginia in January 1903. It was recommended by the Governor and voted on by public school students then adopted by Legislature.

Overview

- Rhododendrons are shrubs and some species are evergreens with large leathery leaves
- Many parts of this plant are highly poisonous.
- Rhododendrons are in the same family (Ericaceae) as azalea, blueberries, cranberries and huckleberries.

Production

Their flowers have 5 lobes, contain 10 stamens and come in a variety of colors including shades of pink, red, purple and white. They are rarely yellow.

Rhododendron blooms are bell-shaped clusters and the bark is so thin that it sometimes peels or shreds.

Rhododendrons like acidic soil conditions for optimum growth and prefer morning sunlight with afternoon shade.

Rhododendron

Kingdom: Plantae

Family: Ericaceae

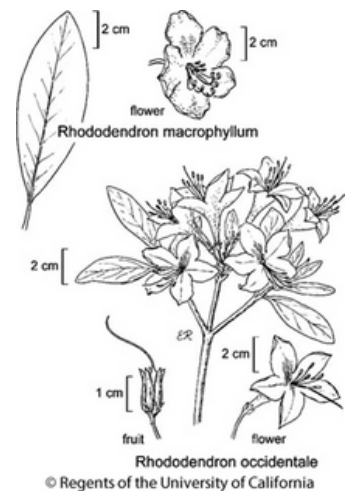
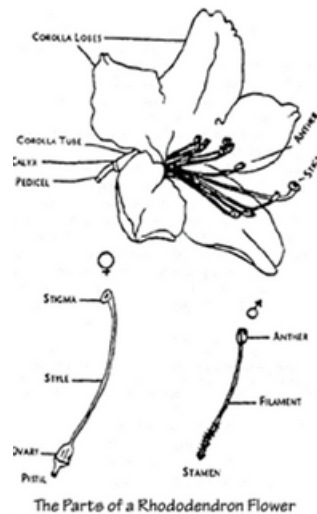
Genus: Rhododendron

Species: approx. 1,000 different species

History

- The Rhododendron is derived from the Greek word Rhodo meaning rose and Dendron meaning tree.
- Their species can be found growing in the wild in many parts of the world.
- Evidence shows that they first appeared about 68 million years ago. The earliest fossils, which were leaf imprints in rocks, are from about 50 million years ago.

Rhododendron Anatomy



<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/rhododendron/#poison>
<https://www.rhododendron.org>
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Educational/Kids_Page/4.html#:~:text=Rhododendron%20%2D%20West%20Virginia's%20State%20Flower,Rhododendron%20the%20official%20state%20flower.
<https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6825>
<https://www.nyrhododendron.org/pages/articles/14article.html>