

The Yak

Newsletter of
The Fraser South
Rhododendron
Society

Volume 27 Number 6
June, 2013



www.flounder.ca/FraserSouth

Fraser South Rhododendron Society
a chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the
third Wednesday of each month
(except June, July and August) at:
United Church Hall
5673 - 200th Street
Langley BC

This Month's Meeting

Saturday, June 8th., 2:00 pm

**Fraser South Annual Potluck Picnic
and
Outrageously Awesome Auction**

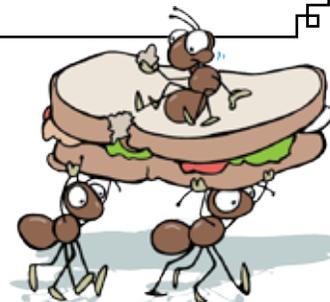
2013 Officers

President:	Brenda Macdonald	604-990-5353
Past Pres:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134
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Secretary:	Margaret Hodgson	604-541-2382
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Directors:	Chuck Floyd	604-541-2884
	Ginny Fearing	604-857-4136
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Programme:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Newsletter:	Sean Rafferty	604-990-5353
Librarian:	Joan McGiveron	604-538-9347
Website:	Chris Klapwijk	604-581-0925
Social Convenor:	Karen Linton	604-888-6564
Refreshments:	Arlene Darby	604-597-1849
BCCGC Liaison:	Bill Bischoff	604-589-6134

Quick Hits

**Our Potluck Picnic and Auction
will be held at the home of Karen
Linton and Larry Morton.**

**A map with directions is attached
to the last page of 'The Yak'.**



JFBB Truss Show winners: page 7



Notes From the Chair

PLANTS IN POTS ...

Just as I have a weakness for massed bud vases as a means of making a bouquet, I also have a weakness for plants in pots as a means of making a garden.

Let us be clear here, however. Black plastic pots do not count, not even the ones disguised with pepto-bismol pink. The rule around here is that plants need to be planted out in the garden, or in some other container. Needless to say, the rule is more often ignored than adhered to.

Nevertheless ... Perhaps the reason I like plants in pots so much is that they are so accessible, both visually and physically. We have a number of potted plants sitting on a ribbon of plant benches located under a glass overhang to keep out the worst of the winter wet, and I can wander along there checking on progress,

doing a little grooming, and moving pots to and fro as they come into and go out of blossom. I can move them around as needed for frost or rain protection, and I can even do this during the relentless spring drizzle without having to gear up. None of the pots are heavier than a WCB-sanctioned two-handed lift, and all together they make a very pretty garden.

The sunniest, driest end of the bench has a collection of Lewisias and other rock-garden plants that need to be protected during the rainy months, and the Head Gardener has the shadier, moister end of the bench for his seedlings (trilliums, big-leaf rhodos, cardiocrinums etc.) as well as black-potted rhodos “in transition”, or so he says.

Out in the general weather are a number of rhododendrons planted up in something other than black plastic. Some are lined up on the railings of the wooden bridge that leads to our front door. Others are located on the benches on various decks. These benches, originally constructed for human use, have now devolved almost entirely as display areas. Who has time to sit down anyway?

Naturally some rhodos lend themselves to container culture better than others, but keep in mind that plants, like fish in an aquarium, tend to grow only as large as the available space allows. As the plant reaches the maximum capacity of the pot it is in, the rate of growth will slow significantly. Of course one would not try to permanently maintain a big-leaf in a pot any more than one would plant a *Sequoiadendron* in a window box, but within reason, almost anything is possible.

That being said, clearly some rhodos are more suited to life in a pot than others, although often the decision is made on grounds that are esthetic rather than horticultural: if it looks good in a pot, plant it there.



R. kiusianum



R. macrosepalum 'Linearifolium'

The evergreen azaleas are clear candidates for pot culture. Beloved of bonsai enthusiasts everywhere, many of them are almost as effective when simply potted up in a fairly shallow container and left to find their own often horizontally-layered shape. *R. kiusianum*, of the Tsutsusi section, is particularly adaptable to small containers and bonsai treatment, often covering itself in tiny white or pink flowers. And, although its leaves are not as tiny and its growth habit is not as architecturally pleasing, *R. macrosepalum* 'Linearifolium', with its delicate strap-like leaves and spidery inflorescences makes a quite stunning impression in a container. *R. nakaharai* is another Tsutsusi member whose brick-red flowers and creeping, compact habit make it a good candidate for life in a pot.

Next up as naturals for a container are almost any of



R. fastigiatum

the section Lapponica. Most have small, wonderfully fragrant leaves, and many, such as *intricatum*, *fastigiatum*, *russatum*, and *lapponicum* are covered with dense little trusses made spiky looking by the long stamens. There are, of course, many hybrids of the Lapponica (including the ubiquitous ‘Bob’s Blue’), which also make good pot plants.

Although compact, small-leaved, and eminently attractive, it is more difficult to replicate

the preferred growing conditions of those two dainty members of section Glauca: *R. charitopes* and *R. glaucophyllum*. Happiest growing on old stumps or nurse logs, either of these would make



R. campylogynum

a stunning container plant, as long as you can provide it with the cool, and damp-but-well-drained growing medium it desires.



R. glaucophyllum var. glaucophyllum

A nice contrast to the angular appearance of the *kiusianums* is the almost bun-like shape of some of the small *campylogynums*, or of *R. pemakoense*. *Pemakoense* makes a tidy little mound, often entirely covered with small funnel-shaped flowers in pink or pinky-purple. And of course nothing quite matches the sight of a small, bun-shaped *campylogynum* with all those little pixie hats poking up.

Although more shrub-like than some of the other candidates, members of the Sciadorhodian section make very attractive container specimens. Both *R. albrechtii* and *R. pentaphyllum* show their pink to rose coloured flowers on dramatically bare branches, and even though the flowers of *R. quinquifolium* show up at the same time as the



R. pentaphyllum

leaves, their pristine white colour shows well against the fresh green leaves. All of these plants look quite ethereal, with leaves in delicate whorls of four or five at the end of the branches. The new foliage of *R. quinquifolium* can be stunning if provided with



R. quinquifolium

sufficient early morning sun, with precise red edges around each leaf, and all Sciadorhodian members display great fall colouring.

Just keep in mind that as with all things horticultural, you are the boss. Just because you planted some plant somewhere doesn't mean it has a life interest in staying there. It is not a standing tenant around which you must organize everything else - you owe it no allegiance.

If one of your plants-in-pots gets too big, loses its shape, or just becomes ungainly looking, simply plant it out in the garden and start over again with a nice, new, small specimen - something that looks best up close, and that will gladden your heart each time you walk by.

Brenda Macdonald (all images courtesy of Hirsutum)



R. quinquifolium - new foliage



FROM THE EDITOR

This Month:

The Annual Potluck Picnic and Outrageously Awesome Auction

June is the time for our other major fund raising functions of the year - the annual auction. It will be preceded, as usual, by our wonderful potluck picnic. Karen Linton and Larry Morton will again be our gracious (and most appreciated) hosts. A map to their house is appended to this month's newsletter.

What's really special about this fund-raising function is that it is a lot more fun and requires a lot less work (at least for most of the participants) than our Plant Sale. Certainly Larry and Karen, and the auctioneers and helpers do a

yeoman's service, but the rest of us get to simply sit around, visiting and chatting, and generally enjoying the afternoon. All the more reason to justify your attendance by bringing in a few worthwhile items to donate to the auction.

This year we shall start the festivities any time after one o'clock for socialising and then dining at four o'clock. We shall then commence the auction sharply at five thirty. Bid high



and bid often as there are always many choice items.

Here, once again, are the rules, chapter and verse:

Bring your treasures to the home of Karen Linton and Larry Morton, any time after 1:00 pm - tiny exquisite rockery specimens you have been clever enough to replicate, divisions of large robust perennial border plants that have begun to threaten your tiny exquisite rockery specimens, the occasional rhododendron that no longer fits into your planting scheme, any small John Deere tractors lurking about unused in your garage, decorative planters, bear-proof bird feeders ... you know, the usual stuff that somebody out there desperately needs and wants. Then you need to pick up a similar volume of goods and chattels to take back home with you by engaging in a spirited bidding war for the privilege of doing so. It's perfect, it's the steady state theory of home and garden maintenance. No carbon credits required. It is so green, it is blinding, and the club puts some money in the piggy-bank for next year. Come on, we are depending on you!

As for the picnic part, here is the cunning plan. Bring:

- a chair to sit upon
- a plate to eat off
- cutlery to eat with
- a wobbly-pop of your choice, if desired
- a mug for the wobbly-pop of your choice, or the tea and coffee that will be provided
- your potluck contribution, for sharing with others
- utensils to serve your potluck contribution, if necessary
- any friends, neighbours, or visiting relatives whom you think would enjoy meeting us and learning more about the FSRS

Next month:

Which is actually July and August, 'The Yak' presses will be shut down during their annual summer overhaul and to allow Office Manager Ratso more time to frolic and chase cabbage moths in the garden.

Less reading and rereading of your 'Yak' should now allow for more time to divide and sort some of your garden treasures for bringing to the September raffle table. Also, keep the FSRs operating in background mode as rumour has it, once again, that vice president Chris has another garden/nursery tour in his mind's eye for September twenty-first. These are always fun adventures.



R. trianthum
“an *R. augustinii* with hairs”-Steve Hootman

The Business Stuff:

The Western Regional Rhododendron Conference September 27-29, 2013,

at the Best Western Agate Beach Hotel in Newport, Oregon. The Chapters of Portland, Tualatin, Willamette, Siuslaw, Southwestern, and Eugene invite you to attend this excellent conference. You will experience a wide selection of clinics on Saturday and Sunday mornings and two banquets with evening speakers from different corners of the world. Eighteen speakers, a big plant sale, lower room prices than in 2007! Start planning now to attend this great conference in your own backyard.

Look for registration details in the next ARS Journal. The beautiful Pacific Ocean beckons to you in the warm days of September.

THE CALENDAR:

Saturday, June 8	Fraser South Rhododendron Society: Annual potluck Picnic and auction Held at Larry Morton and Karen Linton's home, Langley, BC
Wednesday, June 12 7:30 pm	Alpine Garden Club of BC: Todd Boland: The Limestone Barrens of Newfoundland - where alpines meet the sea. Van Dusen, Floral Hall
Sunday, June 16 3:00 pm	Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual potluck picnic and auction, at Jasbir Gill's home, Richmond, BC
September 27-29	The Western Regional Rhododendron Conference. Newport Oregon

This, in off the wire from Bill Bischoff:

“On Sunday, May 19, the “Pilchuck Chapter Rhododendron Society” from Marysville, WA, visited our garden. Our thanks to Bob Wright, who recommended our garden because the members of that club wanted to see only gardens where the owners did all the garden chores themselves. There were 17 visitors who came with 2 mini-buses. In all, a very pleasant group of very knowledgeable gardeners. Carla and I enjoyed their company for over 2 hours. Encounters like this are just-rewards for the labour that goes into keeping a garden in shape.”



The Pilchuk tour enjoying Bill and Carla's marvelous garden.



An unusual meconopsis showing its glory in their garden



And the winners are ...

Twentieth Annual Fraser South Beer Bottle Truss Show,
held Wednesday, May 18, 2013

CLASSES Division I

Species Classes

- Class 1. Rhododendron (lepidotes)
Sean Rafferty - *R. glaucophyllum*
Class 2. Azalea (deciduous and evergreen)
Larry Morton - *R. luteum*
Class 3. Hymenantha (elepidotes)
Harold Fearing - *R. insigne*

Division II

Hybrid Classes

- Class 4. Any lepidote hybrid
Harold Fearing - *R. cinnabarinum* hybrid
Class 5. Any deciduous azalea hybrid
Les Clay - *R. 'Sunset Pink'*
Class 6. Any evergreen azalea hybrid
Wenonah March - *R. 'Refrain'*

Colour Classes

- Class 7a: Red - (small)
Carla Bischoff - *R. 'Lem's Stormcloud'*
7b: Red - (large)
(tie) **Sean Rafferty** - *R. 'Burnaby Centennial'*
(tie) **Chris Hodgson** - *R. 'Eruption'*
Class 8a: White - (small)
Carla Bischoff - *R. 'Helene Schiffner'*
8b: White - (large)
Sean Rafferty - *R. 'Mist Maiden'*
Class 9a: Pink - (small)
(tie) **Sean Rafferty** - *R. campylogynum*
9b: Pink - (large)
Carla Bischoff - *R. 'Lem's Monarch'*
9c: Pink - (really, really, large)
Wenonah March - *R. 'Trude Webster'*
Class 10a: Yellow & Cream (small)
Wenonah March - *R. 'Creamy Chiffon'*
10b: Yellow & Cream (large)
Wenonah March - *R. 'Horizon Monarch'*
Class 11a: Mauves & Purple - small
Larry Morton - *R. 'Blue Boy'*
Class 11b: Mauves & Purple - large
Carla Bischoff - *R. 'Lloyd Dexter'*
Class 12: Orange
Sean Rafferty - *R. 'Conroy'*

- Class 13: Bi-colour
(tie) **Les Clay** - *R. 'Naselle'*
(tie) **Larry Morton** - *R. 'Vincent Van Gogh'*

Division III

Special Classes

- Class 14: Non-registered hybrid
Harold Fearing - *R. soulei* x *R. aberconwayi*
Class 15: Truss with the Best Fuzzy Foliage
Dalen Bayes - *R. 'Cinnamon Bear'*
Class 16a: Best Blotched - small
Colleen Bojczuk - *R. 'Hachman's Charmant'*
Class 16b: Best Blotched - large
Les Clay - *R. 'Joan Leslie Hammond'*
Class 17: Best Speckled
Chris Hodgson - *R. 'Scintillation'*
Class 18: Most Lurid
Larry Morton - *R. 'Edwin O. Weber'*
Class 19: Best Last Year's Truss
Harold Fearing - *R. fortunei*
Class 20: Most Elegantly Weevil-Notched
Barbara Inniss - (unknown)
Class 21: Best Hammerhead
Sue Klapwijk - *R. 'Anthony Waterer'*
Class 22: Most Flaccid
Sean Rafferty - *R. 'May Day'*
Class 23a: Best Miniature Truss (species)
Dalen Bayes - *R. sanguineum ssp. sanguineum var. haemalium*
Class 23a: Best Miniature Truss (hybrid)
Carla Bischoff - *R. 'Kermesina Rose'*
Class 24: Most Fragrant (Az. or Rh.)
(tie) **Sue Klapwijk** - *R. occidentale'*
(tie) **Chuck Floyd** - *R. luteum'*

Judged

Lionheart Award: best over-all yellow, any Class
Wenonah March - *R. 'Horizon Monarch'*

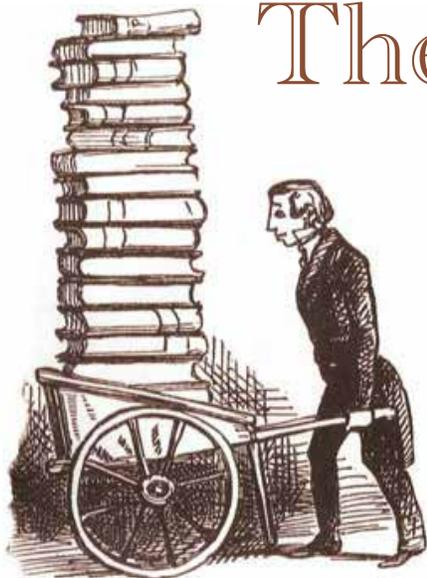
Aggregate Winners -

- First** - **Sean Rafferty**
Second - **Carla Bischoff**
Third - **Wenonah March/Harold Fearing/Larry Morton**

All winners were awarded the plant of their choice from the wonderful selection provided by Colleen Bojczuk (Aldergrove Nursery); and the Aggregate Winners each went home with a bag of M&M's.

The Justly Famous Beer Bottle Truss Show





The Book Cart

Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

Fuchsias, The Complete Guide, by Edwin Goulding
Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 2002.

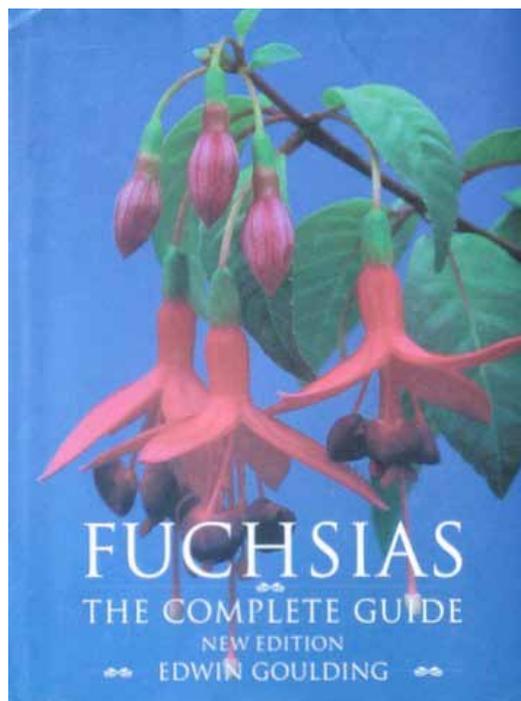
176 pages, approx. 12 Paintings in Plates, 100 colour photos, 34 Figures in Line Drawings, Appendix 1 – Chromosome References and Plant Genetics, Appendix 2 – Fuchsia Research International, Appendix 3 – Picture References, Bibliography, List of Gouldings Fuchsia raisings (1981 – 2001), List of Other Fuchsias Released by Gouldings Fuchsias (1981 – 2001), Specialist Societies Across the World), Fuchsia Index, Glossary, General Index, Hardbound, US\$34.95 ISBN 0-88192-554-3

Edwin Goulding is a nurseryman and fuchsia hybridist. He has been, at various times, show manager, editor for the British Fuchsia Society and President of the East Anglian Fuchsia Fellowship. He has written extensively for magazines and society publications and is the author of *Fuchsias: A Guide to Cultivation and Identification*.

Fuchsias, The Complete Guide is a detailed but practical classic text that comes from an expert with wide-ranging personal experience. It is useful for the committed fuchsia fan as well as those contemplating growing fuchsias for the first time. It offers advice on the best selection of fuchsias, including scented fuchsias, yellow fuchsias and those with unusual features: spoon-bills, lace-edge petals, pansy-eyed corollas and upward-pointing blooms. It gives pointers on how to grow and care for the plants with a calendar of care, plus details on conservation and adaptation to modern needs. The book includes an excellent chapter on the propagation of fuchsias, professional methods of propagation, methods for amateurs, creating better bushes, and shaping the plants. Hardy fuchsias and garden design are discussed in detail, as are pests and diseases (accompanied by remedy charts). A good section of the book covers the latest information on hybridizing and the most recent cultivars on the international scene.

The book is very well organized, starting with a preface and following a very natural sequence of fuchsias in history, on through types of fuchsias, whether they are cold-tolerant, heat-tolerant, apetalous (no petals), single blooms, double blooms, summer bedding fuchsias, miniatures, or paniculates. The book progresses into the soils, fertilizers and potting procedures required and proper methods of propagation before it tackles the practical applications of fuchsias in the garden in beds, in baskets, in conservatories, in greenhouses.

The fuchsias selected for garden use and in formal beds are listed in alphabetical order. And true to form, following these chapters, there are several chapters of particular interest covering ornamental foliage and special fuchsias, again listed in alphabetical order. Good information is given on exhibiting fuchsias before the very practical details of care and problems that can arise with looking after fuchsias. The colour plates are spectacular and the descriptions are well cross-referenced to other leading books on fuchsias. The appendices are very useful.



Margaret Hodgson

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei

(Epithet: after [Robert Fortune](#))

First described in 1859 by [John Lindley](#), *R. fortunei* was discovered by Robert Fortune, west of Ning Po, Chekiang, eastern China, at an elevation of 3,000 ft. Even from such a low elevation, this was to become the first of the rhododendron discoveries from China (distinct from azalea) to be hardy outdoors in the British Isles. And what a marvelous rhododendron it became, adorned with large, wonderfully fragrant flowers which can arrest one in their perfumed embrace. These flowers arrive in May and early June in order to frustrate any damage from late frosts. The plant is hardy and can tolerate

Species and their Hybrids		pollen ♂	
		B	b
pistil ♀	B	BB	Bb
	b	Bb	bb



R. fortunei ssp. fortunei: painting by Walter hood Fitch, in 1866 from plants grown from Fortune collected seed and possibly appeared in Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Volume 92 of that year. While the glands on the style and pedicel were not shown in the illustration, it is considered a life-like representation of the species.

summer heat. While it is slow to bloom, once mature, the plant becomes extremely floriferous and develops a vigorous constitution. These are sundry attributes which make it an obvious choice for exploitation by hybridisers. As a result, there is a multitude of fine hybrids available with *R. fortunei* “blood” flowing through them.

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei is a vigorous, large shrub to small tree with smooth green leaves which are obovate, up to 2.5 times long as broad and rounded on the ends.



The petiole is reddish to purple and not green. The very fragrant flowers are white to pink or pale lilac and have seven lobes. The plant is very hardy even though growing between the relatively low elevations of 2,000-3,000 ft. It is a widely distributed species and is found in east Sichuan, Guangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Fijian, Anhui, and Zhejiang.

Rhododendron fortunei ssp. fortunei is closely related to *R. decorum*, but the latter is a much smaller plant with smaller leaves and flowers, whose range is remote from *R. fortunei ssp. fortunei* and from much higher altitudes.

Rhododendron discolor and *R. fortunei* were thought to be two distinct species until D.F. Chamberlain, in 1979, reduced both species to subspecies of *R. fortunei*. Thus, *subspecies discolor* differs from *subspecies fortunei* in its relatively narrow leaves and tapering leaf-bases and its later flowering (July); *subspecies fortunei* has broader leaves with rounded leaf-bases and blooms in May. In the image below, *subspecies discolor* (left) and *subspecies fortunei* (new growth right) growing beside each other on Leigongshan, Guangxi, China, show both the difference in bloom time and narrowness versus roundness of their leaf shapes.

The former *R. houlstonii* which has even narrower leaves than *ssp. discolor* and blooms earlier than most forms of *ssp. fortunei*, has been reduced to group status and now travels under the name of *R. fortunei ssp. discolor* Houlstonii Group.

Particularly at the beginning of the twentieth century, hundreds of crosses were registered using both *R. fortunei ssp. fortunei* and *ssp. discolor*. Prominent among their hybridisers were Sir Edmund Loder, with the beautiful Loderi grex (all 36 of them) and Lionel de Rothschild and his Naomi grex (14 registered). Other nurserymen/hybridisers included Dexter, Leach, Nearing and Gable on the east coast of North America who found *R. fortunei's* hardiness and heat tolerance very much to their liking as did van Veen, Larsen, Clint Smith, Greer and Ostbo on the west coast. Busy in Holland and having as much fun were C.B. van Ness and Sons and the L.J. Endtz Nurseries, while the Dietrich Hobbie nursery, among others in Germany, was also involved the game.

R. fortunei generally passes the attributes of size and the fragrance of its flowers to its progeny. The white to pink tones of the flowers appear to be dominant in the hybrids; seldom lilac, cream or yellow, occasionally purple but, interestingly, there appear to be no reds. While the species and most of the hybrids do grow into large shrubs or trees, a little judicious pruning will allow these gorgeous plants with their exquisite fragrance to inhabit even a small city lot. Please, don't deny yourself.

Sean Rafferty



R. fortunei ssp. fortunei,
Leigongshan, Guangxi, China

Images: S. Rafferty



R. 'Bach Choir'

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei x R. 'Jalisco Group'
Edmund de Rothschild, 1963



R. 'Van Nes Sensation'

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei 'Sir Charles Butler' x
R. 'Halopeanum'
C.B. Van Nes, 1925

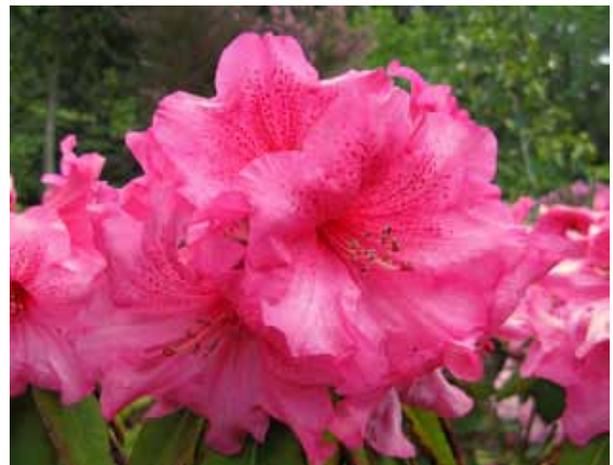
R. 'Will's Wisp'

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei x R. 'Vulcan'
W.L. Rhein, 1978



R. 'Xenophile'

R. fortunei ssp. fortunei x R. 'Tally Ho Group'
R. Strauss, 1950





R. 'China'

R. wightii x *R. fortunei* ssp. *fortunei*
W.C. Slocock, 1936



R. 'Naomi Nautilus'

R. 'Aurora Group' x *R. fortunei* ssp.
fortunei
Lionel de Rothschild, 1938

R. 'Forbidden Plateau'

R. 'Courtenay Queen' x *R. fortunei* ssp.
fortunei
H.R. Wright, 2005



R. 'Madame Fr. J. Chauvin'

R. fortunei ssp. *fortunei* x ?
M. Koster & Sons, 1916





R. 'Platinum Pearl'

*R. 'Trude Webster' x R. fortunei ssp.
discolor*
H.E. Greer, 1983



R. 'Golden Star'

*R. fortunei ssp. fortunei x R. wardii var
wardii*
D.L. Hardgrove, 1966



R. 'Angelo'

R. fortunei ssp. discolor x R. auriculatum
Lionel de Rothschild, 1933



R. 'Golden Belle'

R. fortunei ssp. discolor x 'Fabia Group'
John Henny, 1958

Images: Courtesy hirsutum.info