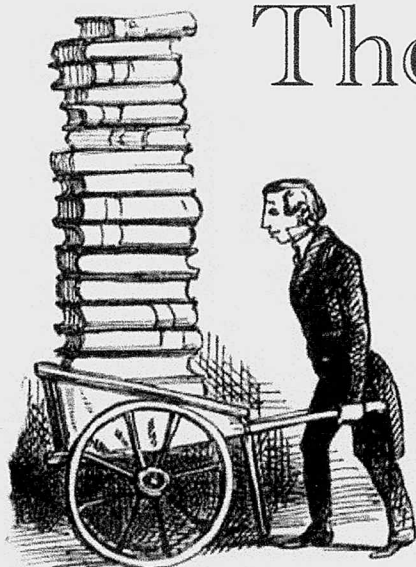


# The Book Cart

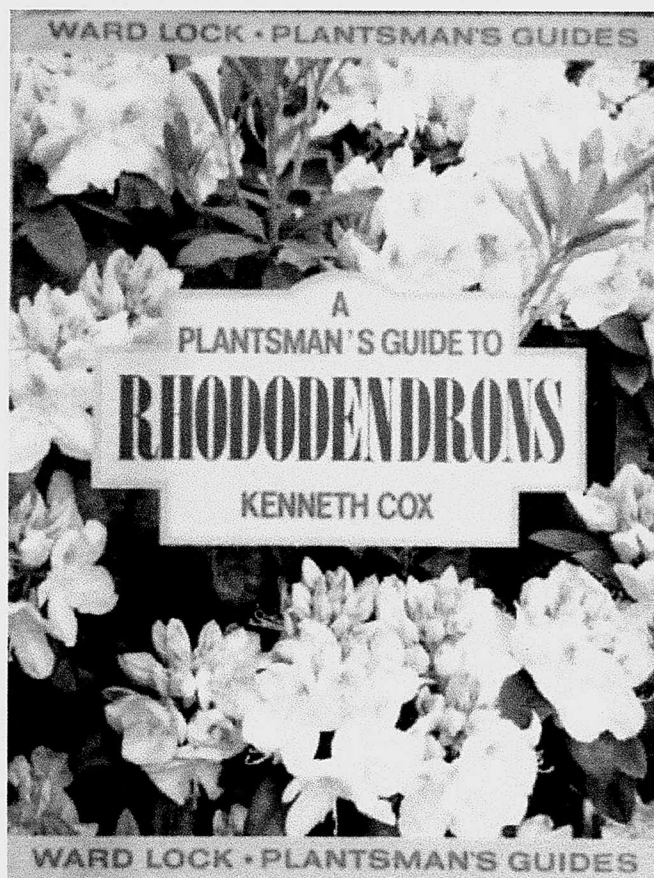


*A Plantman's Guide to Rhododendrons* by Kenneth Cox. Published in Canada by Cavendish Books Inc., North Vancouver, BC. First published in Great Britain by Ward Lock Limited, London, England. Copyright ©1989 Ward Lock Limited, London, England.

128 pages, 36 colour plates of labelled rhododendrons, and 15 black and white line drawings which impart information about the common truss shapes, and also the various methods of propagation such as layering, cuttings, grafting, and growing from seed. The book includes an Appendix with further information about Rhododendron Societies worldwide, as well as an Index of Rhododendron Species in alphabetical order, followed by Rhododendron Hybrids, again in alphabetical order with page number references. ISBN 0-7063-6754-5, printed by BPCC Hazell Books Ltd., Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England.

The author, Kenneth Cox, is no stranger to anyone who has perused the books of the Fraser South Library, which owns at least five of his books and a number of books which he co-authored with his father, Peter Cox. Kenneth Cox was born in 1964 into a family of renowned plantmen, the grandson of plant-hunter, writer and nurseryman Euan Cox and son of Peter Cox VMH. The three generations were and are considered the world's leading experts on rhododendrons. He is managing director of the family firm, Glendoick Gardens Ltd., in Scotland.

*A Plantman's Guide to Rhododendrons* was mentioned at the ARS Fall Conference in Newport, Oregon, September 2016, as being one of the most useful books for anyone interested in choosing, growing and/or propagating rhododendrons for the garden. The book contains five chapters. Chapter One begins with a brief description of the family connection to rhododendrons, the early plant hunters and the story of rhododendrons coming to Britain. It was this arrival that ushered in hybridization of so many beautiful rhododendrons that are present today in so many gardens. In Chapter Two, Planting Ideas, Cox begins the detailed, but well-explained information about the best method for rhododendron success in a garden. He strongly advises that the plants be arranged in clumps of three or more in a bed, not individually in a lawn where they are often starved for moisture by the grass growing over the rootball. Groupings of rhododendrons in beds lead to much healthier and visually pleasing attractive settings. In the remaining chapters, Cox has given a welcome plethora of excellent advice and encouragement to experienced and novice gardeners to, not only to enrich their gardens with these splendid plants, but also to try their hand at propagating and hybridizing their existing selections of rhododendrons. His book contains much information about the various times of flowering, colour combinations, mistakes to avoid, and guides to success by offering the reader detailed descriptions of over 200 rhododendron species and hybrids. This book is in the Fraser South Rhododendron Society library. Well worth the read!



Margaret Hodgson