



## Book Review by Margaret Hodgson

***Rhododendron Portraits*** by D.M. van Gelderen, J.R.P. van Hoey Smith  
 424 pages, approx. 386 plates colour photos (1144 colour photographs in total), with good descriptions of all the various cultivars.  
*Rhododendron Index*. Copyright 1992 Timber Press, Portland Oregon, published in cooperation with the Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society. ISBN 0-88192-1947.

**D.M. van Gelderen** is a professional nurseryman, active in the Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society and especially involved in the Trials. A leading grower of rhododendrons, conifers, maples, and other woody plants, he is a frequent contributor to *Dendroflora*.

**J.R.P. van Hoey Smith**, Director of the Trompenburg Arboretum in Rotterdam, is a leading collector of rhododendrons and conifers. He is active in the International Dendrology Society and travels widely to photograph trees and plants in their native habitats.

D.M. van Gelderen and J.R.P. van Hoey Smith are two of the world's foremost authorities on *Rhododendrons*, and in *Rhododendron Portraits*, they have compiled a

most lavish and comprehensive photographic survey of the elepidote rhododendrons, illustrated throughout in full colour. The large-flowered, evergreen species and hybrids are grouped according to a system that emphasizes the natural relationship between the many fine hybrids and their parents.

The introduction provides an overview of the genus, including the history of *Rhododendron* classification and hybridizing. The following reference pages provide more detailed information about the plants documented in the 1144 colour photographs, including notes on distribution, botanical characteristics, and species of particular interest to gardeners, nursery professionals, and landscape designers. The generously sized plant portraits were selected from more than 3000 taken by the authors since 1960.

The authors travelled far afield to photograph the most spectacular *Rhododendron* specimens, including many hybrids, as well as the many beautiful cultivars grown in parks and nurseries of Europe, the United Kingdom, and North America. All cultivars are documented.

Production of this first edition coincided with the 1992 Floriade World Flower Show in The Netherlands.

Example of book information:

### Explanation of Captions

Format:

'**Plant name**'. Grower/introducer, year of introduction, year of registration. Female parent X male parent. Awards. Height in metres or centimetres, months in bloom (in Roman numerals), hardiness zone.

Rhododendrons are classified according to the following zones:

Zone AA – Extremely winter hardy – colder parts of Canada

Zone A - Very winter hardy

Zone B - Hardy most of midwest USA and Canada – most parts of Canada

Zone C - Hardy coastal areas, Oregon, Washington, Vancouver

Zone D - Hardy only in California

Zone E - Hardy only in protected gardens, California where rainfall adequate

Zone F - Not in this volume – tropical and subtropical