



Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species (based on the descriptions by H.H. Davidian) by J.F.J. McGuire and M.L.A. Robinson © 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, U.K. Cambrian printers Ltd. © Photographs J.F.L. McGuire and as stated in captions. 692 pages, approx. 355 pages with colour photos. Glossary, Flower shapes, Leaf shapes, Collector Abbreviations, Bibliography and Internet Resources, Index of Plant Names, Hardbound, ISBN 978 1 84246 148 8(hardcover)

A New Book to our Library, *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species (based on the descriptions by H.H. Davidian)* is also one of those books which may rhododendron enthusiasts also have in their own personal collection as it has to be one of the most useful guides to rhododendron species available. I was delighted to find that FSRS library has acquired this book and have been using our own copy at home to check out the many species recommended by Dennis Bottemiller of species for gardens of the Pacific Northwest.

J.E.L. McGuire and M.L.A. Robinson have worked together to write this book, based on the abbreviated text of *Rhododendron* species by H.H. Davidian. The larger part of the photographs were done by McGuire with contributions from others, all of whom are acknowledged.

This guide has been developed to assist in the recognition and identification of species of rhododendrons that have been fully described and are currently in cultivation. Places of origin are included, diagrams are clear, and more important, the photographs are exceptional in quality. At the beginning of the book, a very good description is given for the key to species descriptions.

Many of the photographs will give additional information such as the following: Principal defining characteristics - similar to R. , but with narrower, often recurved leaves. In cultivation, it is later flowering etc. The photographs also include one leaf turned over to show the indumentum and McGuire has included many photographs of leaves in subsections to show variations with the indumentums.

The ***Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species*** is well organized, according to standard description of species rhododendrons with the descriptions on the left page, the corresponding photograph on the right side page. In a single description, a wealth of information is given to the reader such as shrub or tree, size (height), details of branchlets, details of leaves including upper and underside, petiole, inflorescence in trusses, details of corolla, hardiness, origin, and any additional details. This is a most useful book to read and one of the best on species rhododendrons.