



Book Review (Margaret Hodgson)

Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas by H. Edward Reiley, B.S. (Horticulture). Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, Copyright 1992 by Timber Press. 285 pages, drawings on five pages, 87 colour photographs, multiple black and white photographs, Appendix A: *Good Doer Table*, Appendix B: *Plant Listings by Flower Colour*, Appendix C: *Cold Tolerant Plants*, Glossary, Plant Index: *Rhododendrons*, Plant Index: *Azaleas*, Subject Index. Hardbound. ISBN 0-88192-211-0 (hardcover).

H. Edward Reiley (1928-2008) held a B.S. degree in Horticulture, was a retired educator and a past president of the American Rhododendron Society. He was awarded the Gold Medal by the ARS for his dedication to the world of rhododendrons. In 1981 he helped organize the Mason-Dixon Chapter Rhododendron Society, becoming its first president and serving in that capacity for over twenty five years. He also served as District

Director, Eastern Vice President and President. He served as a USAF fighter pilot and was a Life Member of the Future Farmers of America. There are a number of registered hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas which he developed. He operated a small nursery which included a large private garden featuring hundreds of cultivars of rhododendrons and azaleas in the natural setting of an oak forest.

In the preface of ***Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas***, the author comments that these plants are more exacting in their cultural requirements than many commonly grown plants, but hastens to add that the genus *Rhododendron* is so diverse that most gardens can be modified to meet the requirements of many species or cultivars. The year round evergreen shrubs are beautiful as are the deciduous azaleas which unvaryingly have attractive winter bark, stems, buds, and then brilliant colours of orange, and yellow when in flower.

The book is well-organized, beginning Chapter One with an interesting history of the genus *Rhododendron*, covering the taxonomy and origins, plant introductions and Azaleas. With Chapter Two, the author discusses the site selection and growing requirements needed to have good success. The remaining chapters of the book cover the topics of selection of rhododendron species and cultivars, their use in the landscape, such as specimen plants, accent plants, groupings, woodland plantings, container plants or bonsai plants. Other topics cover the care required, plant disorders, propagation, nursery growing and hybridizing. The last chapter in the book gives very practical tips on conducting a successful flower and/or plant sale in the Rhododendron Chapter. Reiley has included an entire list of Show Classes for a successful Truss Show. It also includes some ideas of how to prepare those trusses the previous winter to have winners in the next May truss show. The three Appendices are most useful. Listen up folks. The book is in our library.