

NEW AND SHORTER WISH LIST FOR RHODODENDRON SEEDS

By Ole Jonny Larsen, European member of the Seed Exchange Committee of the ARS

On behalf of the Seed Exchange Committee of the ARS, I have asked members and others who grow Rhododendrons from seeds to tell which species they really wish to grow. The first wish list was published in The Journal and it has been on the internet for two years connected to the 2008 and 2009 seed lists.

The first wish list was very long, 197 names, and most received wishes were included. When I read through the 2008 seed lists from the most well known Rhododendron organisations, I found that 28 % of the wished species (55 names) were on the lists, about half of them on the ARS list. Of course one can not be sure that this was a result of the wish list program, but I know that at least some donors followed our list when pollinating their plants during spring 2008.

More of the wished species have been offered on the 2009 lists, so the first list is now far too long. We have decided to present a new and much shorter list for the 2009 pollinations. It now only includes species never (at least over the last ten years) or very rarely offered on any list. These are species that several members and others have asked for.

We now hope that collectors among us go through their plant lists and ask themselves if they can support some of these species seeds for the 2010 seed lists. Even one new name on the seed list will be greatly appreciated, maybe someone have been searching just that species for years.

ELEPIDOTE SPECIES	LEPIDOTE SPECIES	EVERGREEN AZALEAS
<p><i>(Almost) never offered :</i></p> <p>albertsenianum asterochnoum bainbridgeanum coelicum eudoxum floccigerum * haofui luciferum *->hobbiense aff martinianum mimetes miniatum nigroglandulosum ochraceum parmulatum sperabilioides subanseriense</p>	<p><i>(Almost) never offered :</i></p> <p>afghanicum bulu caesium * capitatum * cinnabarinum ssp. tamaense collettianum cuneatum edgarianum fragariiflorum laudandum * longistylum shweliense tapetiforme * tatsienense * thymifolium * tolmachevii</p>	<p>indicum (all forms) kiyosumense nakaharae serpyllifolium wadanum</p> <p>TENDER SPECIES</p> <p>hongkongense championae ovatum (hardy forms)</p> <p>VIREYAS</p>

<p><u>succothii</u></p> <p><i>Rarely offered:</i></p> <p><u>adenopodum</u> <u>aperantum</u> * <u>callimorphum</u> <u>habrotrichum</u> <u>lanatoides</u> selse ssp. setifeum <u>recurvoides</u> <u>temenium</u> <u>viscidifolium</u> <u>prorum</u></p>	<p><u>uniflorum</u> <u>websterianum</u> *</p> <p><i>Rarely offered:</i></p> <p><u>complexum</u> <u>micranthum</u> <u>setosum</u> <u>yungningense</u> * (all forms) <u>bailevi</u> <u>nitidulum</u> * (all forms) <u>russatum (incl. album form)</u> <u>valentinianum</u></p>	<p>All species in subsection Pseudovireya</p>
--	--	--

* = often mislabelled in culture and hard to identify

Other more specialised wishes:

-[Lapponicas](#) All forms, varieties, subspecies (some of them earlier described as species) are wanted. Sophisticated growers are often interested in this difficult subsection.

-[R. viscosum](#) Different forms of this native American species are wanted (var. aemulans, var. montanum and var. glaucum). This also goes for other American azaleas.

-[R. sanguineum](#) All forms, varieties, [subspecies](#) are wanted. This is quite a tricky species to grow well, but among the most beautiful Rhododendrons when grown to perfection.

[R. prorum](#) Pronum is offered for the second time this year on the ARS list. This species has been around for some years now, and it has started flowering in some gardens. There is a BIG demand for seeds of R. prorum!

-**Hardy forms** of all tender species are always sought after, especially big leaved species. Maybe the most important point in growing wild collected plants from seeds is to find new and better forms than those introduced earlier. This goes for better flowers, better leaves and better over all performance, but maybe most of all for better hardiness. Don't keep your secrets for yourself!