



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Overview

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, located between Seattle and Tacoma, is a 22-acre woodland garden that is home to the largest collection of *Rhododendron* species in the world. With a Victorian stumpery, Rutherford Conservatory, pond garden, extensive fern collection, rock garden, and more, visitors will experience a diverse botanical collection in a Pacific Northwest forest setting. The garden is home to beautiful companion plants, including the famous Himalayan Blue Poppies, Camellias, Magnolias, Japanese maples, and many rare plants.

The Visitor Center features interpretive information about the garden and a year-round nursery with plants that have been propagated and cultivated in on-site production greenhouses.

Quick Facts

Year Established	1964
Opened to public	1980
Annual Attendance	28,000
Acreage	22 acres with 13 features
<i>R.</i> species in collection	700+
Members	1,000+
Volunteers	16
Operating Hours	Tue-Sun from 10 am-4 pm
Adult Admission	\$10 / \$7 Seniors & Students
	Children and military are free

Media Inquiries: Media@rhodygarden.org; (253) 345-2515

[FACEBOOK.COM/RHODYGARDEN](https://www.facebook.com/rhodygarden) • [INSTAGRAM.COM/RHODYGARDEN](https://www.instagram.com/rhodygarden) • [WEBSITE: RHODYGARDEN.ORG](https://www.rhodygarden.org)

PROGRAMMING & MISSION STATEMENT

As a living museum, the RSBG conserves and shares its international collection with both the scientific community and the general public. Known worldwide for the garden's contributions to scholarship and research, the RSBG's educational and scientific offerings include an annual *Rhododendron* species symposium, workshops, annual community festivals, seed and pollen shipment, live plant distributions, selections of rare and ornamental plants, and a biannual catalog with up-to-the-minute findings.

Mission Statement The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation, research, acquisition, evaluation, cultivation, public display, and distribution of *Rhododendron* species.

Staff

Steve Hootman Executive Director of Horticulture & Curator

Grace Pham Executive Director of Business Operations

Atsuko Gibson Nursery Manager & Assistant Curator

Dennis Bottemiller Rutherford Conservatory Curator

Emily Joseph Assistant Nursery Manager

Will Clausen Horticulturist & Assistant Curator

Matt Houghton Assistant Gardener

Alyssa Bitsie Marketing & Outreach Manager

Janey O'Neil Administrative Assistant

Cheryl Brammer Visitor Services Representative

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Late spring blooms



Rhododendron macgregoriae



Polystichum setiferum in the fall



R. orbiculare overlooking meadow



Himalayan Blue Poppy



Rutherford Conservatory in the fall



Pond in Rutherford Conservatory



Plant Sales Nursery



Cardocrinum giganteum



Aerial view of Rutherford Conservatory



Rutherford Conservatory

Brief History

The Rhododendron Species Foundation is a non-profit organization founded and incorporated in 1964 by Pacific Northwest members of the American Rhododendron Society in order to secure the finest authentic forms of *Rhododendron* species and to develop a comprehensive collection of this plant genus. Because of the destruction of *Rhododendron* habitats in many areas of the world, conservation has become of primary importance in recent years. This concern led to the formation of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and has guided its activities.

Video: A day at the Garden



Press Coverage

Awards & Accolades

2023 Best in the PNW - Seattle Times

2023 Community Impact Award - Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce

2003 Exceptional Educational Exhibit Award of Merit - Northwest Flower & Garden Show

1996 Educational Exhibit Award of Merit - Northwest Flower & Garden Show



Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Press Kit

2024 Events

Pop-up Plant Vendor Weekends!

Saturday & Sunday; April & May | 10 am – 4 pm

Shop from local boutique and wholesale nurseries, providing a unique selection that you won't find anywhere else.

Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday & Sunday; May 11-12 | 10 am – 4 pm

Celebrate mom as you stroll through 13 unique garden features, enjoy live musical performances, shop in an outdoor art market, find rare plants for sale in our onsite nursery, and dine from sweet and savory food trucks surrounded by brilliant botanicals at peak-bloom.

Blue Poppy Day

Saturday, May 18 | 10 am – 4 pm

The mystical Himalayan blue poppy, *Meconopsis*, will grace us with its ethereal beauty once again. Walk through a meadow glowing with blooming blue poppies. Enjoy live musical performances, an open-air art market, food trucks, and plant sales in a woodland garden at peak-bloom.

SummerFest at the Garden **FREE**

Saturday, June 22 | 10 am – 4 pm

Celebrate community at the garden this summer with musical performances, an art market, food trucks and more!

Summer Clearance & Rare Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday, June 29-30 | 10 am – 4 pm

Shop a large selection of rhododendrons and companion plants marked 50% off. For collectors shop for rare *Rhododendron* species and companion plants in 3-gallon containers, including "retired" stock plants.

Evening in the Garden "RSBG 60th Anniversary"

Saturday, July 27 | 5 – 8:30 pm

RSBG volunteers and members are invited to a night of enchanting music, savory cuisine, wine and beer, garden tours, and a rare plant auction.

Member Appreciation Day

Sunday, Sep. 22 | 10 am – 4 pm

Membership makes us grow and thrive! As a way of thanking our loyal members for their continued support, we invite you to join us for our Member Appreciation Day featuring a lunch, discounts on plants, garden tours, and more.

Fall Foliage Festival **FREE**

Saturday & Sunday; Oct. 26-27 | 10 am – 4 pm

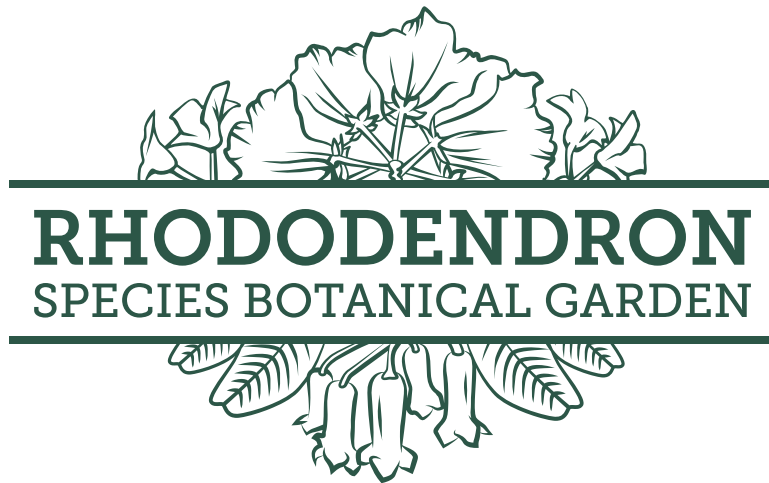
Come see one of the finest displays of fall foliage color on the west coast. Enjoy guided tours, pop-up plant vendors, food truck, and kids activities, as you discover an immersive wonderland of sights, sounds and sensations – from cool breezes to rustling leaves, and the quiet swaying of golden-brown maple trees.





Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Press Kit

Logo Usage Green





Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Press Kit

Logo Usage Black

