

# How to look after Rhododendrons

## Why buy Pacific Rhododendrons

Rhododendrons are found in the wild in almost every corner of the world. Their natural habitat is that of the shrub layer of forests and woodland. The last official estimate recorded in excess of 10,000 different hybrids from over 800 species. With their dark green glossy foliage, rhododendrons prefer some protection from the midday sun. They are very hardy against the cold and will tolerate almost any site. Flowers can be susceptible to late frosts.

## Soil Type

Rhododendrons are "ericaceous" meaning that they are lime haters.

Rhododendrons must be planted in lime free soil with ericaceous planting compost (note: most of the soil in the immediate area to Pacific is lime free but please ask a member of staff if you have any doubts).

## Container plants

Rhododendrons make wonderful container plants. The all year round colour provided by the splendid foliage together with the spring flowers can contribute to any patio, courtyard or terrace.

## Feeding and Watering

Feed with Westland's ericaceous food (found in the shop). Start feeding when the flower buds begin to swell in the spring and then again after flowering. A high potash feed such as Tomorite in the early autumn will help generate more bud development. If planted in neutral pH soils, then a regular application of an ericaceous feed will help prevent yellowing of the leaves. It is important that rhododendrons do not dry out if in containers, this is particularly the case when plants are holding flower buds. Rhododendrons suffer from few problems. Aphids can be prevented by spraying with Provado Ultimate Bug Killer.

## Pruning

Rhododendrons are easy to prune BUT this must be done as soon as the flowers are starting to drop. This will allow the plant enough time to regrow and to produce flower buds for the spring. Late pruning will prevent flower buds from developing.



Rhododendrons may be planted by themselves as specimens or with other lime hating plants. Camellias, Pieris, Heathers, Acers and Magnolias all like the same growing conditions for a great display. Underplant with spring flowering bulbs.

The team at Pacific Nurseries is highly experienced. As plant growers and the supplier of thousands of plants to over 100 garden centres in the region, we are well placed to advise you on any of your gardening questions. Please ask us for any help you need.

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