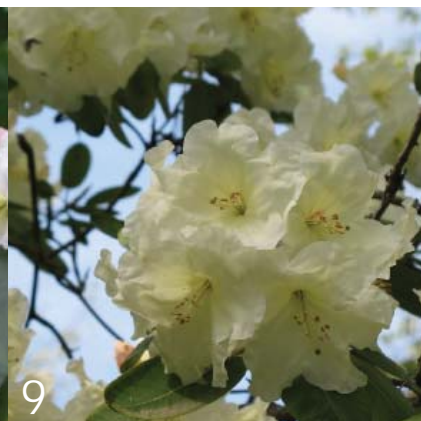
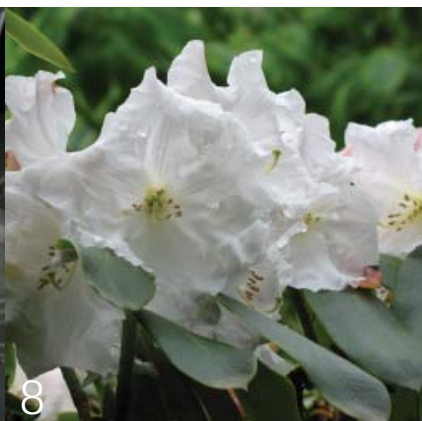
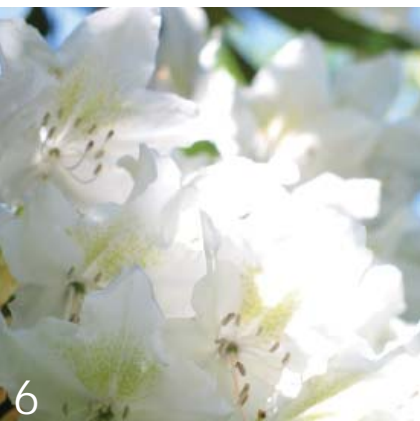




early MAY



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Early May marks the start of peak season in the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden. The Azalea walk is in full bloom at this point. Herbaceous perennial groundcovers such as ferns and hostas are beginning to form a thick green carpet throughout the garden. Gigantic, pre-historic looking gunnera are pushing their way up out of the ground and beginning to form crinkled leaves on thick, spiky stems. Spring is now in full force.

Images on reverse:

- 1 *Rhododendron* 'Cotton Candy'
- 2 *Rhododendron orientale*
- 3 *Rhododendron cinnabarinum*
- 4&5 *Rhododendron* 'Exbury'
- 6 *Rhododendron* 'Cunningham's White'
- 7 *Rhododendron* 'Beauty of Littleworth'
- 8 *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. A. T. de la Mare'
- 9 *Rhododendron* 'George Watling'
- 10 *Rhododendron wardii*
- 11 *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
- 12 *Blechnum spicant*
- 13 *Hosta sieboldiana* var. *elegans*
- 14 *Gunnera manicata*
- 15 *Polystichum munitum*



1 *Rhododendron* 'Cotton Candy'

In early May, 'Cotton Candy' produces large funnel-shaped flowers in varying shades of pastel pink with darker pink speckles. Dense, frilly-edge trusses clothe the plant in early to mid May. 'Cotton Candy' is vigorous, and has an upright and spreading habit. Out of flower it can be identified by its long narrow leaves that are dark green above and much lighter green below.

2 *Rhododendron occidentale*

Rhododendron occidentale is one of fewer than two dozen species of rhododendron that are native to North America. Western azalea, which is deciduous, grows in the wild along the Oregon and California coastlines and has beautiful pink, white and peach flowers and long stamens. In mid May, the numerous *Rhododendron occidentale* found in the Greig Garden are at their peak and will be blanketed in delicate, wonderfully scented blooms.

3 *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* x

Rhododendron cinnabarinum originates from the Himalayan Mountains and is one of the species most sought after by rhododendron collectors. It is a delicate, elegant plant that has beautiful waxy, tubular flowers that range from mustard yellow to burnt orange to scarlet, even to plum and lilac purple in some cases. Ironically, the nectar of these stunning flowers is reputed to be the most poisonous of all rhododendrons. In the spring, its emerging young leaves are a beautiful waxy blue-green colour and have a pleasant cinnamon-camphor scent as they unfurl.

4&5 Exbury azaleas

A spectacular collection of brightly colored azaleas is located between the northeast side of the golf course and bike path adjacent Lost Lagoon. Many of these are varieties that originated at the world-famous Exbury Gardens in Hampshire, England. Most of these azaleas, unlike rhododendrons, are deciduous.

6 *Rhododendron* 'Cunningham's White'

Rhododendron 'Cunningham's White' has fairly small, abundant white flowers that each have a greenish-yellow blotch. They are held in loose trusses of about 8 flowers, each of which opens from a pale pink-tinged bud. Its dark green leaves are fairly small compared to those of most rhododendrons, being only about 10 cm in length. 'Cunningham's White' is also quite tolerant of poor air quality.

7 *Rhododendron* 'Beauty of Littleworth'

'Beauty of Littleworth' is a splendid rhododendron that produces tall, robust white trusses in May. Each flower, though mauve in bud, is pure white, with the exception of a purple speckle on its top petal and a pink stigma. It is large, fast-growing and can have a rather droopy habit. Its trusses are

truly enormous; each flower may grow to be up to 12 cm wide and there are typically between 15-18 flowers per truss.

8 *Rhododendron* 'Mrs. A. T. de la Mare'

Rhododendron 'Mrs. A.T. de la Mare' has tightly domed trusses of slightly fragrant, frilled white flowers, each of which has a greenish blotch in its throat. Each emerges from a pale pink bud. It is quite unique among rhododendrons in that it will tolerate full exposure to sun in most instances.

9 *Rhododendron* 'George Watling'

'George Watling' has beautiful, wide, pale primrose yellow flowers. In sunlight at their peak, they seem to have a bright, almost iridescent glow. Its bright, glossy green, ribbed foliage is also quite attractive. This hybrid was developed by the Greigs at the Royston Nursery.

10 *Rhododendron wardii*

Rhododendron wardii is one of the nicest yellow-flowered rhododendrons. Its widely bell-shaped blossoms are grouped in trusses of 4-15 individual flowers. *Rhododendron wardii* has medium-sized dark green leaves.

11 *Matteuccia struthiopteris*

The ostrich fern is one of the most elegant ferns to be found in the Rhododendron garden. Its delicate grass-green fronds begin to unfurl in late April and by mid May will be about one metre tall. By the end of the summer, they may be more than one and a half metres tall.

12 *Blechnum spicant*

Deer fern is a shade-loving evergreen fern that is unique in that it has two types of fronds - upright fertile fronds that have dark brown stems and

prostrate infertile fronds.

13 *Hosta sieboldiana* var. 'Elegans'

'Elegans' is one of the largest-leaved hostas, and can be found throughout the Rhododendron Garden. Its bluish-green heart-shaped leaves have a very puckered textured. It needs a shady, well-drained spot in the garden to flourish.

14 *Gunnera manicata*

Gunnera manicata is one of the largest herbaceous perennials. Upon first glance, many people mistake gunnera as a type of giant rhubarb, because of its single, peltate leaf held flat on thick, upright stems. Incredibly, it can grow up to three metres tall with leaves just as wide, before the end of the summer.

15 *Polystichum munitum*

Sword fern is one of British Columbia's most widely recognizable native plants. Although it is semi-evergreen, it produces new fronds every year. In the Rhododendron Garden, these new leaves can be seen unfurling in early to mid May.