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MARCH



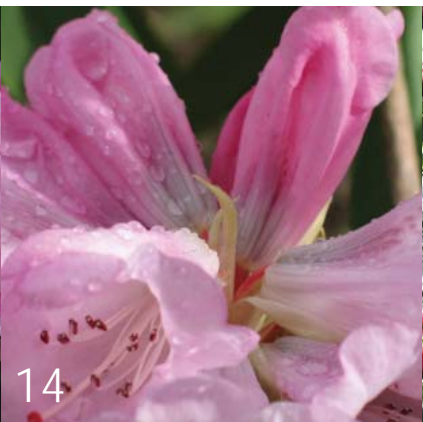
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MARCH



At the beginning of March, the Rhododendron Garden begins to awaken from its winter slumber. Snowdrops are the first to make an appearance, then crocuses. Soon come the helebore, the sweet-smelling February daphne, soft yellow corylopsis flowers and fuzzy golden clusters of cornelian cherry dogwood blossoms. The earliest rhododendrons of the season begin to bloom.

Images on reverse:

- 1 *Crocus chrysanthus* 'Cream Beauty'
- 2 *Crocus tommasinianus* 'Whitewell Purple'
- 3 *Crocus sieberi atticus* 'Firefly'
- 4 *Crocus tommasinianus* 'Ruby Giant'
- 5 *Crocus vernus* 'Pickwick'
- 6 *Galanthus nivalis*
- 7 *Corylopsis sinensis*
- 8 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 9 *Cornus mas*
- 10 *Daphne mezereum*
- 11 *Rhododendron* 'Cilpinense'
- 12 *Rhododendron calophytum*
- 13 *Rhododendron cyanocarpum*
- 14 *Rhododendron* 'Robin Hood'
- 15 *Rhododendron* 'Len Living'



1-5 *Crocus* sp.

Crocuses provide some of the first colour in the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden in late winter. Clusters of them sprout up throughout the garden, particularly north of the Nelson Street parking lot and throughout the Azalea Walk.

6 *Galanthus nivalis*

From around the beginning or middle of February through early March, literally thousands of snowdrops emerge around the garden, announcing that spring is just around the corner. Parts of the garden are literally carpeted with these tiny white flowers; especially striking is the bank to the east of the intersection of Lagoon Drive and Stanley Park Drive.

7 *Corylopsis sinensis*

Throughout the month of March, Chinese witch hazel is covered with fragrant, pale primrose yellow flowers.

8 *Helleborus x hybridus*

Lenten rose is a popular winter-flowering herbaceous perennial. It has pale greenish-yellow or pale purplish-pink downward-hanging flowers with prominent stamens. It can be found throughout the Greig Garden, although most specimens are located on either side of the Magnolia Walk.

9 *Cornus mas*

Cornelian cherry dogwood stands out in the garden in late February through the end of March for its rounded clusters of small, bright yellow flowers that appear along its otherwise bare branches. Its early flowering means that by June its small, oblong, ruby-coloured fruit will be ripe and will attract birds.

10 *Daphne mezereum*

February daphne is another unique winter-flowering plant. By the beginning of March it should be in full flower, bearing terminal clusters of strongly fragrant, bright pink flowers on bare stems. It is, however, poisonous, and therefore should not be ingested. This particular daphne is an especially old specimen.

11 *Rhododendron* 'Cilpinense'

This hybrid is unique in that nearly all parts of the plant, including both sides of its shiny green leaves, are covered in short, fine, copper-coloured hairs. It produces pale blush pink flowers in March; these are held in loose trusses of 2-3. Approximately 20 specimens of the low-growing *Rhododendron* 'Cilpinense' are present along the north side of a bed just east of the Magnolia Walk (11 on map).

12 *Rhododendron calophytum*

Rhododendron calophytum produces large, pale pink flowers in early spring, each of which has a burgundy blotch on its uppermost lobe. While the specimen near the golf course service entrance (12 on map) is small because it is young and was only

recently planted, in the wild *Rhododendron calophytum* may grow to be more than 10 metres tall.

13 *Rhododendron* 'Beacon'

Rhododendron 'Beacon' is the earliest-blooming rhododendron in the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden. Its first pink flower appear around the middle or end of February and fade by mid to late March.

14 *Rhododendron* 'Robin Hood'

The wide, pink flowers of another early rhododendron, 'Robin Hood,' begin to open in early March.

15 *Rhododendron* 'Len Living'

Several tree-like *Rhododendron* 'Len Living' are situated just north of the tennis courts. It will be impossible to miss 'Len Living' in this area in March, as its reddish-pink flowers make it stand out brightly from its surroundings.