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 heliobores, the sweet-smelling February daphne, soft yellow corlyopsis 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 ‘Firef’
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 ‘Clipinense’
12. Rhododendron calophytum
13. Rhododendron cyanocarpum
14. Rhododendron ‘Robin Hood’
15. Rhododendron ‘Len Living’

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.
April brings early-mid season rhododendrons, magnolias and clouds of pink cherry blossoms. Take a stroll down the Camellia Walk, located just outside the westernmost edge of the golf course, to see a collection of mature camellias salvaged from old homes in the West End that were demolished during the 1960s.

1. **Darmera peltata**
   - Umbrella plant is a unique herbaceous perennial in that it produces flowers before it produces leaves. In April, its leafless flower stalks begin to push up through the ground and eventually erupt into a cluster of small, pale pink flowers. These are followed by large, peltate leaves, produced singly atop thick stalks.

2. **Camellia japonica x**
   - There are more than an astounding 3000 cultivars and hybrids of Camellia japonica in cultivation. A handful of these can be viewed from late February through late April along the Camellia Walk, on the west side of the Stanley Park Pitch and Putt course.

3. **Rhododendron ‘Mrs. GW Leak’**
   - ‘Mrs. GW Leak’ has large pink flowers with a burgundy blotch on the upper petal, and drooping leaves. It looks very similar to Rhododendron ‘Mrs. Furnival;’ one way that the two can be told apart is that ‘Mrs. Furnival’ blooms two weeks later than ‘Mrs. GW Leak’ and has a slightly lighter blotch.

4. **Magnolia liliflora**
   - Lily magnolia has striking dark pink, nearly purple vase-shaped flowers. These begin blooming in late April on bare branches. The selection ‘Nigra’ is shorter than most, but produces flowers at an exceptionally young age.

5. **Rhododendron ‘President Roosevelt’**
   - ‘President Roosevelt’ can generally be described as a variegated rhododendron, as both its leaves and its flowers are multi-coloured. ‘President Roosevelt’s leaves are large and waxy, mixed green and chartreuse, while its flowers are picotee type, and fade from dark pinkish-red at the edges to pure white in the middle.

6. **Rhododendron ‘Moonstone’**
   - Rhododendron ‘Moonstone’ is a Rhododendron williamsianum hybrid that becomes covered in creamy white bell-shaped flowers in late April and early May. It has a compact habit, small round leaves and coppery new growth characteristic of williamsianum crosses. The flowers of ‘Moonstone’ may change colour slightly from year to year, depending on seasonal conditions, ranging from pale yellow to cream to nearly pure white.

7. **Magnolia stellata**
   - Star magnolia produces 3-4 inch wide white flowers. Its petals are more narrow than those of most magnolias, with about 12-18 being produced per flower. These are very showy in bloom, and are ever so slightly fragrant.

8. **Magnolia x soulangiana**
   - Saucer magnolia is a small deciduous tree that
only ever reaches a height of about 5 metres. It has a multi-stemmed habit and produces perfect pale pink flowers tinged with purple in the spring.

9 Rhododendron williamsianum

Rhododendron williamsianum is a unique rhododendron. In April, it produces delicate, nodding bell-shaped pink flowers, which are held in trusses of two or three throughout its dense foliage. Even without flowers, Rhododendron williamsianum can be easily identified by its rounded leaves and copper-coloured new growth. It is shrubby and mounded in habit, and will grow to be, at most, about 1.5 metres tall.

10 Camellia ‘Aunt Mavis’

One of the loveliest camellias in the garden can be found on the west side of the Camellia Walk. Its single flowers are bright pink with a cluster of sunny yellow stamens in the centre of each.

11 Lysichiton americanus

Skunk cabbage is an iconic native wetland perennial in coastal British Columbia. It gets its name from the pungent smell it produces, which is considered unpleasant by some. Its other common name, swamp lantern, comes from its bright yellow flowers, which begin to bloom in April.

12 Magnolia ‘Yellow Lantern’

Yellow lantern magnolia produces beautiful pale yellow flowers, which are unique in that they emerge at the same time as the leaves do, whereas most magnolias flower before they leaf out. The specimen on the Magnolia Walk is being steadied by a chain attached to a maple on the other side if the path.

13 Koelreuteria paniculata

Golden raintree, as Koelreuteria paniculata is commonly known, is a deciduous tree that produces dry, papery, orange lantern-like fruit. These fruit persist through the fall as the tree’s compound leaves turn a beautiful bright golden yellow colour, into the winter all the way up until new leaves are produced. This Koelreuteria is a very large specimen. While its exact age is unknown, it is probably at least 60 years old. When Koelreuteria’s leaves first appear in the late spring, they are a pale salmon pink, and later mature to green.

14 Rhododendron concinnum

Rhododendron concinnum is a shrubby and fast growing, and produces smaller, slightly fragrant purple flowers in late April. Its glossy green leaves also emit a pleasant scent, particularly when crushed.

15 Rhododendron ‘Elizabeth’

This is perhaps the best and most reliable of all red rhododendrons, and is thus commonly planted. ‘Elizabeth’ is low-growing, has nice dark green foliage, and prolific bright red trusses. It is easy to grow and generally problem-free.
early MAY
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.
late MAY
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Rhododendrons typically peak during the last two weeks of May. Mid-late rhododendrons typically peak during the last two weeks of May. The end of the main rhododendron season is usually around now, although if the weather isn’t too hot or too rainy, it may be extended slightly. Summer flowering vines such as honeysuckle and clematis begin to come into bloom now, too.

Images on reverse:

1 Magnolia wilsonii
2 Rhododendron ‘Sappho’
3 Rhododendron ‘Haydn’
4 Rhododendron ‘Naomi Nautilus’
5 Rhododendron ‘Mrs. Furnival’
6 & 10 Rhododendron mollis
7 Rhododendron ‘May Day’
8 Rhododendron ‘Whitney’s Orange’
9 Lonicera x heckrotii
11 Rhododendron loderi ‘King George’
12 Rhododendron ‘Mrs. J. G. Millais’
13 Rhododendron yedoense var. poukhanense
14 Rhododendron ‘Psyche’
15 Rhododendron ‘Blue Peter’

Magnolia wilsonii is a rather unique magnolia with large, showy, pendulous flowers. These flowers are pure white with a purple centre and have a sweet, almost lemony scent. During its peak blooming period in the late spring, Wilson’s magnolia is best viewed from immediately below, where one can gaze directly up into the downwards-hanging flowers.

2 Rhododendron ‘Sappho’

‘Sappho’ has medium-sized white flowers with a dark purple blotch that are held in fairly dense and rounded trusses. It is a sturdy rhododendron, but has a tendency to become leggy.

3 Rhododendron ‘Haydn’

Rhododendron ‘Haydn’ is deciduous azalea named after the Hungarian composer Joseph Haydn. In late May it becomes literally covered in delicate white flowers.

4 Rhododendron ‘Naomi Nautilus’
The ‘Naomi’ series of hybrid rhododendrons are amongst the most elegant of all. ‘Naomi Nautilus’ is prized for its extraordinary flowers, which are both large and wide and are a colour somewhere between pale pink, peach and cream, with a trace of soft greenish yellow in the throat.

5 Rhododendron ‘Mrs. Furnival’

‘Mrs. Furnival’ has large pink flowers with a burgundy blotch on the upper petal, and drooping leaves. It looks very similar to Rhododendron ‘Mrs. G. W. Leak;’ the two can be told apart by their bloom periods. ‘Mrs. G. W. Leak’ flowers two weeks earlier than ‘Mrs. Furnival’ and has a slightly darker blotch.

6 & 10 Rhododendron x kosteranum

Mollis azalea, as Rhododendron x kosteranum is commonly known, is extremely showy, producing vivid yellow, orange and red blooms in late May. It is extremely hardy and will eventually grow to be around two metres tall.

7 Rhododendron ‘May Day’

‘May Day’ is another heavy bloomer. For most of the month of May, true to its name, ‘May Day’ will be a curtain of red, its tubular-campanulate flowers drooping in dense fan-like trusses. This plant also features attractive matte green leaves that have thick, fuzzy, cinnamon brown indumentum on their undersides. ‘May Day’ has a rather dishevelled habit, and will grow wider than it will tall.

8 Rhododendron ‘Whitney’s Orange’

‘Whitney’s Orange’ is one of the best orange flowers to be found amongst rhododendrons. It has widely funnel-shaped coral pink-orange flowers with a reddish-orange blotch and wavy margins, which are held in trusses of about 15 flowers. It

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also has moss-green leaves and a low growth habit with decumbent branches.

9 *Lonicera x heckrottii*

The tubular pink and orange flowers of golden-fame honeysuckle begin to open in late May. It has relatively long and narrow leaves, and can be found twining itself through the fence along the south edge of the golf course.

11 *Rhododendron* ‘Loderi King George’

The loderi group of rhododendrons are amongst the most popular ever cultivated. They are characterized by wide pale pink or white flowers that are held in large prolific trusses. ‘King George’ has an open habit and large leaves, and fragrant pink flowers that eventually fade to white.

12 *Rhododendron* ‘Mrs. J. G. Millais’

*Rhododendron* ‘Mrs. J. G. Millais’ has pale pink flowers with a greenish yellow blotch. These open very wide, almost flat, and are held in dense rounded trusses.

13 *Rhododendron yedoense* var. *poukhanense*

The broadly funnel-shaped flowers of *Rhododendron yedoense* var. *poukhanense* are lavender-coloured, fragrant and held in clusters of two to three. It is semi-evergreen, and will lose some, but not all of its leaves during the winter.

14 *Rhododendron* ‘Psyche’

‘Psyche’ is a late-flowering *Rhododendron williamsianum* hybrid, with many wide, pale pink flowers appearing towards the end of May, against relatively small, rounded leaves.

15 *Rhododendron* ‘Blue Peter’

‘Blue Peter’ has lavender purple flowers with a dark maroon blotch in the throat which are held in large, upright trusses. It has large, glossy green leaves.
Late season rhododendrons begin to bloom in June. Showy flowering perennials such as calla lilies, irises, and candelabra primulas are now in season and provide bright splashes of colour throughout the garden, now that most rhododendrons have faded. The summer-blooming magnolias now begin to flower. By the end of June, the *Rhododendron auriculatum* have begun to bloom.

Images on reverse:

1. *Magnolia tripetala*
2. *Rhododendron decorum*
3. *Rhododendron chionoides*
4. *Rhododendron ‘Bonito’*
5. *Magnolia hypoleuca*
8. *Iris versicolor*
9. *Rhododendron ‘Purple Splendor’*
10. *Rhododendron ‘Anna Rose Whitney’*
11. *Buddleia globosa*
12. *Papaver nudicaule*
13. *Primula bulleyana*
14. *Rhododendron ‘Fabia’*
15. *Rhododendron auriculatum x*

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**4 Rhododendron ‘Bonito’**

‘Bonito’ is a large-leaved, late-flowering rhododendron. It has very widely funnel-shaped white flowers that have a slight red-yellow speckling in the throat.

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**5 Magnolia hypoleuca**

Japanese white-barked magnolia is native to Japan. This species has enormous, highly-ornamental and strongly scented flowers with cream-coloured petals and crimson-pink stamens which bloom in June. The young leaves and flower buds are edible and in Japan, *Magnolia hypoleuca* is grown for its medicinal bark. Interestingly, it is also highly tolerant of atmospheric pollution.

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**6 Rhododendron ‘Fastuosum Flore Pleno’**

‘Fastuosum Flore Pleno’ is an unusual double-flowered hybrid, where each individual flower looks like it is made up of two flowers, with the inner petals being smaller and more frilly than those of the outer flower. The flowers each have a greenish-yellow blotch and are arranged in loose trusses of approximately 15. ‘Fastuosum Flore Pleno’ is a sterile hybrid that has been bred from cuttings and graphs selected for features that eventually lead to a double flower. In most plants, double flowers have no stamens; instead, they have usually mutated into the second set of petals.

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**7 Rhododendron ‘Arthur Bedford’**

‘Arthur Bedford’ has dense, dome shaped trusses comprised of 11-16 lavender purple flowers, each of which has a brownish-red blotch on its uppermost lobe. It has glossy green leaves held on unique reddish stems.

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**8 Iris versicolor**

Blue flag iris is native to marshes and wet meadows across North America. It grows up to one
metre high and bloom from May until July, peaking in June.

9 **Rhododendron ‘Purple Splendor’**

This is one of the darkest purples found amongst rhododendrons. ‘Purple Splendor’ is so dark that the blotch present on it upper lobe seems nearly black. These flowers have frilled edges and are clustered in dense, dome-shaped trusses. The leaves of ‘Purple Splendor’ are distinct in that they have a depressed midrib.

10 **Rhododendron ‘Anna Rose Whitney’**

‘Anna Rose Whitney’ is a very dependable rhododendron for its large, deep pink flowers in large rounded trusses, nice olive-green foliage, and its vigorous habit.

11 **Buddleia globosa**

Orange butterfly bush is a lanky deciduous shrub that has small orange flowers arranged in 2 cm-wide round heads. These fragrant flowers appear in late May or early June and later in the summer develop into dry, brown, rounded seed heads. It is native to the Andes of Chile, Argentina and Peru.

*Buddleia globosa* is a relative of *Buddleia davidii*, the fragrant, purple butterfly bush that is commonly found naturalized in British Columbia and considered an invasive weed in Greater Vancouver, Southern Vancouver Island and on the Sunshine Coast. *Buddleia globosa* is significantly less invasive, and should be considered by gardeners as an alternative to *Buddleia davidii*.

12 **Papaver nudicaule**

Arctic poppy’s bright orange flowers are in bloom from May through September, although its seeds ripen in June. It is highly adaptable and will grow in sun or part shade and in moist or dry soil. It is a short-lived perennial and will die out in particular-

13 **Primula bulleyana**

Bright pink-orange flowers are arranged in distinct tiers on the upright stems of candelabra primula. They will grow to be up to half a metre tall, and thrive in sunny, but moist locations around the Rhododendron Garden.

14 **Rhododendron ‘Fabia’**

‘Fabia’ produces plentiful, bright pinkish-orange campanulate flowers. They have a prominent calyx and are held in loose, downward-hanging trusses of approximately nine flowers. ‘Fabia’ has dark, dull-green leaves with fairly dense, pale brown indumentum.

15 **Rhododendron auriculatum x**

*Rhododendron auriculatum* is noted for its grand stature and fragrant, extremely late-blooming flowers that appear in late June or even July. The flowers of the true *Rhododendron auriculatum* species are typically pure white, or occasionally pale pink, with a slight green blotch in the throat, but this particular specimen is a hybrid and has light salmon-pink flowers. *Rhododendron auriculatum* has enormous leaves – more than a foot long in some cases – and a strong, tree-like branching pattern, which make it an impressive plant anytime of the year, regardless of whether or not flowers are present.

*Rhododendron auriculatum* and its hybrids were a signature of Royston Nursery, owned by Ted and Mary Greig – after whom the garden is named and from where most of the rhododendrons in this garden came from during the 1960s.