

2018 ARHS Seed Exchange

Sharon Bryson ... Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2018 Seed Exchange for the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

The electronic approach to the Seed Exchange seems to work very well. The seed list and order form will go out to all those with email addresses. A hard copy will be made available to those without email.

Once again we will post the Seed List on the Internet which will have a full complement of links to many images and information to help in your decision-making. The online version will have periodic updates on seed lot availability.

Visit The [Willow Garden](#) website and follow the links for 2018 ARHS Seed Exchange. A link to the list will be inserted on the [Atlantic Rhodo](#) site.

We again wish to thank the faithful contributors who have made this Exchange possible. The overall success of our Seed Exchange depends upon seed contributions by our members, so please make a “mental note” to save some interesting seeds for next years’ Exchange. There is always an interest in the Companion Plant section as well as the Azalea and Rhododendron sections. Success also depends upon members purchasing seed. Many interesting plants can be added to our gardens by simply growing a few seeds. It seems that our list this year is a bit on the scanty side. This emphasizes the need for seed donations. Members who have never contributed might consider becoming seed donors in the coming year. Complacency can creep up on us.

Our 2018 list has several seed lots “recycled” from the 2017 list. These include both native species and hybrid varieties; open and hand pollinated. The viability of azalea and rhododendron seed is usually very good, so offering year old seed shouldn’t be a problem for growers. It is always a shame to see “leftover seed” not being used in some useful way.

There are, this year, a series of Paeonia species included in the Exchange. They can be a bit tricky to germinate, but overall are easy to grow. Most will require a series of alternating warm/moist and cold/moist treatments. Patience is the key.

We have tried to give several seed lots their prerequisite cool treatment. A reminder that most moist packed seed cannot be sent until temperatures moderate towards spring. We have maintained last years’ charge for “shipping and handling” (\$3.00). The rate changes at Canada Post have made the “break even” point quite close.

The deadline for submitting members-only orders is **Feb 20, 2018**.

Please remember that the seeds go out on a “first-come, first-served” basis dependent on seed quantity. Get your orders in early and you have a very good chance of getting everything on your list. It is VERY helpful to list second choices on the order form. If none are listed, we have to make a small “editorial decision”!

We are again anxious to encourage people to try growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas from seed. Online information is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites.

To this purpose we are offering a **FREE** package of seed to anyone interested, whether or not you order any other seeds. This is noted in the seed list. Please send the order form and \$3 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need further planting instructions, please ask.

The Seed Exchange will be open to “the world at large” after our Feb.20 member’s-only deadline, and will end April 30, 2018. Feel free to share the list with other gardeners who might not be members of the ARHS. Local garden clubs might find the offerings of interest. We have had orders from many places in the world over the last few years. Stories of your past successes and/or failures with seed growing are most interesting and welcome.

Comments or suggestions regarding the Seed Exchange are also encouraged. You can send a note with your order or email willowgarden_ns@hotmail.com



a few seed parent images