

2021 ARHS Seed Exchange

Sharon Bryson ... Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2021 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 as in previous years.

I have decided to allow electronic payment options for this years' Exchange. This would be either an e-transfer or via PayPal. This is especially helpful for those out of the country.

The email address to use for that is sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

Sending a cheque or money order is still an option.

I would also like to have the actual order form mailed to me, otherwise I have a lot of printing to do! A hard copy of the order does facilitate the process.

One other visible change in this years' Exchange is an increase in the price of each seed packet. This momentous decision to change the price came after seeing that there had been no change in well over twenty years. The Seed Exchange has not been the prime source of income for the Society, but as some other sources have been negatively impacted in the last year this small increase may help.

The charge for shipping has increased to \$3.50. Postal charges seem to increase, and the fee barely covers that expense.

The Seed List will be posted on the Internet and 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, so that version is best to check as time goes on.

Visit The [Willow Garden](#) website and follow the links for 2021 ARHS Seed Exchange.

A link to the list will be inserted on the [Atlantic Rhodo](#) site.

Our thanks go out to 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.

Our 2021 list is quite extensive, thanks in part to contributions from some new donors and the generous repeat donations from others. There is a selection of Paeonia species listed from Joe Harvey of British Columbia. He faithfully submits seed most years.

This year there is a fine selection of Azalea seed, after a bit of a dearth last year. The main contributors are Sally & John Perkins and Steve Cunliffe from Hew Hampshire. You may notice what appear to be repeat listings in this section. That is because Steve has, over the years, obtained many plants from the Perkins' garden. They are very knowledgeable and well-known advocates of the Genus Rhododendron.

This is your opportunity to acquire some interesting azalea forms.

There are many interesting species Rhododendrons, offering the chance to grow species that would not normally be available. They might also require some degree of "homework".

The assortment of hand pollinated rhododendron hybrids is extensive and interesting.

If there is a "theme", it might be perceived to be the aim for improved "REDS"

Our 2021 list has several seed lots "recycled" from the 2020 list. The viability of azalea and rhododendron seed is usually quite 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. I will hopefully find a way to offer some other seed lots from 2020 for growers.

Several seed lots have been given their prerequisite cool treatment. A reminder that most moist packed seed cannot be sent until temperatures moderate towards spring.

The deadline for submitting members-only orders is Feb 28, 2021.

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, I have to make a small “editorial decision”!

In an effort to encourage people to try growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas from seed 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 \$3.50 to cover postage in the usual way. If you need further planting instructions, please ask.

Online information is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites.

The Seed Exchange will be open to “the world at large” after our Feb.28 member’s-only deadline and continue until April 30, 2021. Members can, of course, order at any time up to the April 30 deadline.

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 sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca

a few seed parent images

