

Energy Conservation in Rooting Deciduous Azaleas by Elizabeth K. Cummins, Vol. 38, #1, p. 15.

Effect of Terminal Bud Removal on

Rhododendron Cuttings by B.C. Strickland and C.J. French, Vol. 38, #2, p. 63.

Rooting Evergreen and Deciduous

Azaleas by Mark Konrad, M.D., Vol. 38, #2, p. 86.

## ACCELERATED PROPAGATION OF RHODODENDRONS

Weldon E. Delp, Harrisville, PA

Rhododendron and azalea seeds are among the easiest to grow. No stratification is necessary. They can be sown as soon as they come out of the seed capsule or held over as long as they are kept cool and dry.

### **DELP SEED GERMINATING MIX:**

- 1 cu. ft. Plaster Grade Perlite
- 1 cu. ft. Peat Moss (screened thru 1/4" hardware cloth)
- 1 oz. dry Aqua Grow



Group of seed in bands under lights

Firm mix in 4" square plantbands. Pour scalding water on bands containing mix with a sprinkling can, and let set overnight. The following morning, place 5" plastic labels on opposite sides of plantband. (One label is to contain seed identification.) Sprinkle seed on top of mix. **DO NOT COVER SEED.** Place plantband containing seed inside a freezer bag and close with a tie. Place containers where they will receive 70-75 degrees F. bottom temperature and give them 18 hour day lengths. No further care is necessary until seeds have germinated.

As soon as the roots have gone into the mix, gradually give more air by opening bag. After one week, remove the freezer bag completely. At this point, mist the seedlings to

keep medium moist.

When the first true leaves form, it is time to transplant the seedlings.



Seedlings ready for transplanting — Have first true leaves

### **DELP MIX FOR SEEDLING FLATS:**

- 1 cu. ft. Michigan Peat screened through 1/4" hardware cloth
- 1 cu. ft. Peat Moss screened through 1/4" hardware cloth
- 1 cu. ft. coarse Perlite

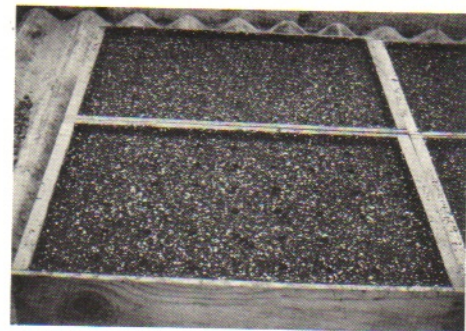
#### **ADD:**

- 2 oz. dry Aqua Grow
- 1/2 teaspoon FTE 503 (Peters)
- 2 oz. Dolomitic lime
- 2 oz. 20% Super Phosphate
- 2 oz. Long Last Fertilizer (21-15-15)
- 1 oz. 10% Chlordane Granules

### **FORMULA FOR LONG LAST FERTILIZER:**

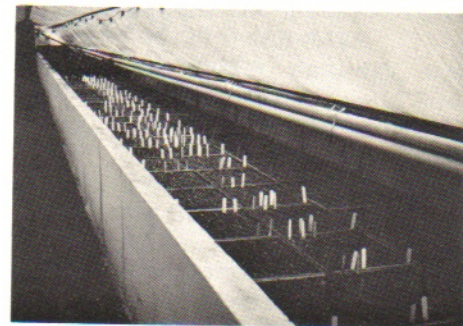
- 15 lbs. Potassium Nitrate
- 15 lbs. Magamp (medium grade)
- 15 lbs. Diamonium Phosphate
- 15 lbs. Muriate of Potash
- 40 lbs. Urea-Form.

I transplant into flats on 2" centers and induce rapid growth from January until June by maintaining a night temperature of 72-75 degrees F. I give them at least 18 hours of daylight. This I do by using 60 watt bulbs spaced 30" apart and 20" from



Prepared flat for transplanting

plants. After June 21st, the plants are kept without the extra heat and light, and are left to go into normal



Seed sown in 4 inch bands.

dormancy in the fall. After dormancy, transplant into one gallon containers.

### **DELP MIX FOR GROWING ON IN ONE GALLON CONTAINERS:**

- 3 cu. ft. Delp basic soil mix
  - 1 cu. ft. Peat Moss
  - 1 cu. ft. coarse Perlite
- #### **ADD:**
- 1/2 lb. 20% Super Phosphate
  - 1/3 lb. Dolomitic Lime
  - 2 oz. dry Aqua Grow
  - 1 oz. 10% Chlordane Granules
- ### **DELP BASIC SOIL MIX**
- 2 parts clay soil