

The Azalean

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On the Cover

Rhododendron occidentale, the western azalea, seen in a portion of the Bremen Rhododendron Garden highlighting North American rhododendrons that also included *R. calendulaceum*, the flame azalea. See related article, p. 76. [Photo Rick Bauer]

R. occidentale is one of our most diverse deciduous Rhododendrons. It ranges in color from white to pink and can be found in both diploid and tetraploid forms. It is part of the unique flora found along the Northern California and Oregon coastline. The western azalea was used to develop some of the Exbury hybrids from Great Britain.

During the twentieth century it has been the subject of ongoing plant exploration as rhododendron enthusiasts seek out unusual forms for use in the garden. Many of these unusual forms are now conserved in the Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden at Lake Wilderness Arboretum in Maple Valley, WA. [Thanks to Aaron Cook for this additional information]

