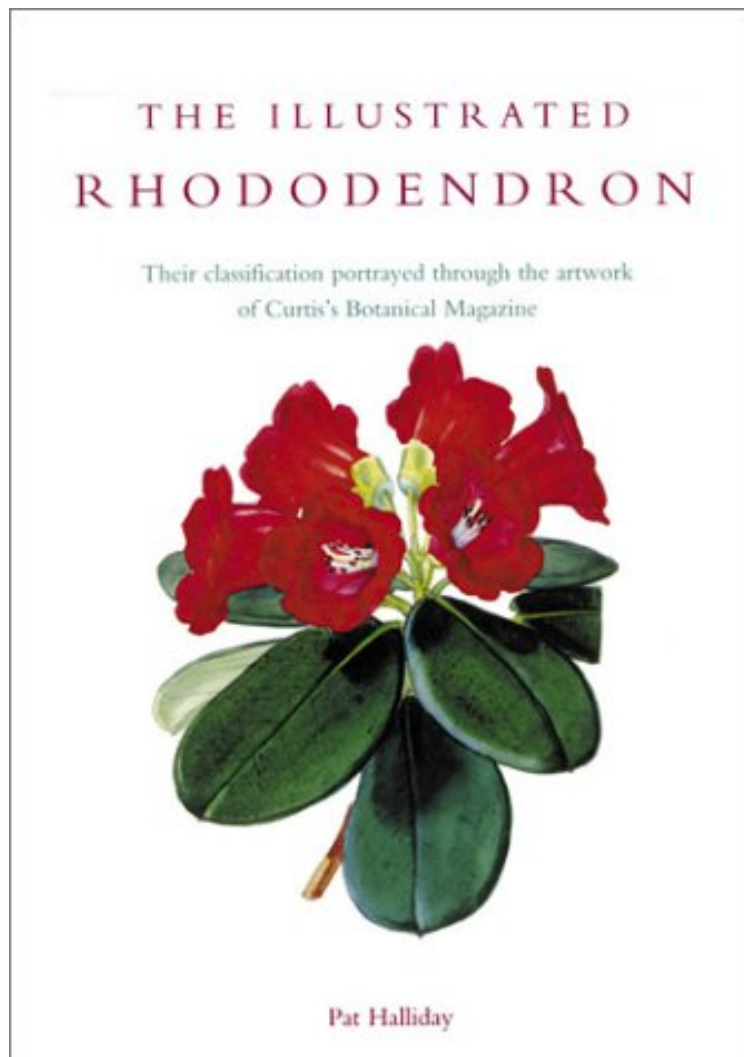


[Read now] The Illustrated Rhododendron: Their Classification Portrayed Through the Artwork of Curtis's Botanical Magazine

## The Illustrated Rhododendron: Their Classification Portrayed Through the Artwork of Curtis's Botanical Magazine

*Pat Halliday*

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**Pat Halliday : The Illustrated Rhododendron: Their Classification Portrayed Through the Artwork of Curtis's Botanical Magazine** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrated Rhododendron: Their Classification Portrayed Through the Artwork of Curtis's Botanical Magazine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Jennifer J. Bain very happy with this purchase - what a deal!  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Informative, thorough, experienced, and professional By

Midwest Book Review With its 120 color illustrations and four line drawings, Pat Halliday (on the staff of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, from 1947 to 1990 and an experienced rhododendron expert horticulturalist) offers a superbly organized and presented contribution to the literature of rhododendrons. A veritable showcase of botanical art, each of the exquisite color engravings are drawn from the pages of "Curtis's Botanical Magazine" or "Kew Magazine". The species is presented within the conceptual framework of Halliday's own personal choice of classification systems and she updates the information that accompanied the original historical plates throughout the Botanical Magazine's 213 years of publication. A personal selection rather than an encyclopedic volume, Halliday's descriptions comprising *The Illustrated Rhododendron* are nonetheless informative, thorough, experienced, and professional. Highly recommended, essential reading for gardeners and horticulturalists with an interest in the species, Pat Halliday's informative overview of the cultivation requirements for the rhododendron is especially recommended.

This book presents 121 plates, all of the subgenera, sections, and series as classified by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. The text provides an interesting account of the introduction of the illustrated species into cultivation, its history, distribution, habitat, relationships with other species, and its classification.

.com William Curtis's venerable Botanical Magazine, founded in 1787, is one of the oldest regular publications with color illustrations still in existence. In *The Illustrated Rhododendron*, Pat Halliday lays out the complicated classification of the genus according to the system approved by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, taking as her inspiration the finely detailed drawings that appeared in the Botanical Magazine over the last two centuries. Though of course not all of the 850 or so species native to the Northern Hemisphere are pictured or discussed, every subgenus, section, and series is represented, the species chosen for inclusion based on the quality and condition of the illustration available, the importance of the species historically, the popularity of the species, and Halliday's personal interest in it. "This is primarily a book of 'pretty pictures,'" Halliday writes, but that is a modest appraisal. Halliday's accounts of the selected species' discovery and cultivation, as well as her meticulous descriptions of the plants, range, and habitats, will captivate rhododendron enthusiasts. And on the contrary, the illustrations were given short shrift in the book's production--the paper is simply too transparent to support dense text on one side and a delicate illustration on the other. Ultimately, this is a book on the classification of the Rhododendron genus, with some very pretty pictures thrown in. --Liana Fredley

From Booklist Plant exploration and a devotion to gardening are part of Great Britain's formidable horticultural tradition, as is William Curtis' Botanical Magazine, appearing first in 1787 and in production continuously since that time. From among thousands of illustrations published in that periodical, Halliday culled lovely botanical portraits and commissioned new drawings for this compilation of more than 100 blooming rhododendrons. Scientifically, Halliday aims to fully represent the classification of the Rhododendron genus. To that end, the text offers engrossing historical background, meticulous descriptions, cultural advice, and practical growing information for each species shown, accompanied by depictions of beautiful inflorescences, textural leaf forms, and a range of plants from dwarfs to towering shrubs. Artistically, Halliday's effort achieves the luminescence of a multifaceted gem: the book is bright with images of beguiling flowers adorning an array of rare and familiar rhododendrons. The result is a volume that will elicit the curiosity of backyard gardeners while satisfying the demands of connoisseurs. Alice Joyce

Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Anyone who loves the history of garden plants will find this book entrancing. -- Verlyn Klinkenborg, *The New York Times Book*, December 2, 2001 Gardeners and growers will want to have this book, but it will also interest those who enjoy fine botanical illustration. -- Choice, Vol. 39 No. 04, December 2001 Highly recommended, essential reading for gardeners and horticulturalists with an interest in the species. -- The Bookwatch, October 2001 [This book] is an exquisite collection of botanical art on the genus Rhododendron. . . . Rhododendron enthusiasts will surely appreciate. -- Mark Brand, *HortScience*, Vol. 36 No. 7, December 2001