

ARHS 2018 TISSUE CULTURE – Advance Sale Information

It's time again to order your Tissue Culture plants for Spring 2018. Thank you to all the members for your patience as I've been preparing for your orders. This year we have 28 plants including rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants.

In the order form we have shown the sizes available for each plant. Prices will vary with plant size as the larger plants cost more and have a higher freight charge. As all our major expenses are in US dollars, the exchange rate is critical. The standard size, similar to previous years, is L2 (5.7cm square tapering down 8.3 cm to 3.5 cm square, minimum order of 49 plants) with an expected price of \$5.50/plant. Other sizes are L3 (9.2cm tall, 8cm tapering to 5.9cm, minimum order of 25 plants) with an expected price of \$8/plant, QT (12.7cm tall, 10.2 cm square tapering to 7.6 cm, minimum order of 16 plants) with an expected price of \$11.50/plant, 072 cell pack (4.4cm square x 6.3cm deep, minimum order of 72 plants) with an expected price of \$3.00/plant, QR (round quart that is 11.4cm across the top, 10.1cm tall and tappers to a 8.6cm bottom, minimum order of 16 plants) with an expected price of \$11.50/plant. For plants that are available in both L2 and QT, we will plan to order the L2 size unless there are not enough orders to reach the minimum quantity. **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER. YOU WILL BE BILLED WHEN YOUR ORDER IS PICKED UP OR SENT.** (Special shipping charges may apply.)

These plants will be available for pickup in April. The time and location will be announced at a later date. All members will be advised of the date and location once confirmation is received of the plants arrival date. In addition to your order you may be able to purchase leftover plants on the day of the pick-up.

Plant descriptions and an order form are attached. Please make sure your phone number and, if possible, your email address is included in the order form. This sale is only available to paid-up members in the Atlantic Region.

Orders that are not picked up in Halifax on the sale date will be shipped collect by whatever method you have indicated on you order. Where shipping options are limited, the parcel will be shipped by Canada Post.

EMAIL ORDERS ARE PREFERRED (EITHER USE THE FORM OR JUST SEND AN EMAIL WITH THE PLANTS YOU WANT TO ORDER) BUT YOU CAN SEND BY REGULAR MAIL IF YOU WISH. PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE A COPY OF YOUR ORDER. THE DEADLINE FOR THE 2018 ORDER WILL BE MARCH 16, 2018.

Please send your order to ARHS c/o Dennis Crouse 232 Boutilliers Point Rd,

Boutilliers Point, NS

B3Z 1V1

902-826-7165

E-mail: denniscrouse0@gmail.com

When you pick them up:

REMEMBER THESE PLANTS HAVE NOT BEEN HARDENED OFF. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU GIVE THEM A GOOD WATERING AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE POT THEM UP IN 4" POTS. A mixture of one part peat, one part perlite and one part commercial mix makes a nice light mix for these small rhodies. DO NO OVERWATER.

For deciduous azaleas:

Keep them inside under lights at 55-65 F (rather than cool for other azaleas and rhododendrons) until all risk of frost is past (at least late May). Let run slightly dry before watering again. Lots of light and some humidity (a greenhouse is ideal).

For other azaleas and rhododendrons:

Keep them inside under lights IN A COOL PLACE until all risk of frost is past (at least late May).

For all:

Once all risk of frost is past (at least late May), you can place them outside on nice days in a shady spot so they can begin hardening off, but do not leave outside overnight until the risk of frost is over. In June put them in the ground in a cold frame or other well sheltered spot. Mulch to keep the moisture and temperature stable and water as needed. The first winter provide some protection. Use a coldframe, burlap or conifer boughs and make sure they are mulched well. Do not use clear plastic as it will cause burning and may even kill them. Shade cloth (which can be purchased at Lee Valley) provides excellent shade and wind protection.

Good luck with your little plants and make some notes on how they do. We would really appreciate feedback on their performance.