

2024 ARHS Seed Exchange

Sharon Bryson ... Seed Exchange Chair

Welcome to the 2024 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 members with email addresses as in previous years.

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 link for 2024 ARHS Seed Exchange. That link will be activated sometime in January, 2024.

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

Electronic payment options will again be welcomed for this year's Exchange. This would be either an e-transfer or via PayPal. This is especially helpful for those out of the country.

I will accept email orders for this year's Exchange with an electronic payment. I would request you email the completed Order Form as an attachment. Try to avoid taking a picture if possible. I shall endeavor to make the online form fillable.

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

Sending a cheque or money order and the paper Order Form is still an option.

The Seed Exchange had a modest price increase in recent years, which did not seem to adversely affect ordering. Strong support of the Seed Exchange has been helpful for the Society.

The charge for shipping is still \$4.00. This will hopefully cover increased postal and printing costs.

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 year's 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.

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. The keen hybridizers have been busy as "Bees".

Our 2024 list will have several seed lots "recycled" from the 2023 list. The 2023 season was a challenging one for many. The extreme cold in February 2023 resulted in a drastic reduction in bloom. This meant that many planned crosses were unable to be accomplished.

That being said, there have been many interesting and unique contributions.

One example are seeds donated by Ken Griffith from North Carolina. Ken grew and hybridized Orchids for over 40 years. When he "retired" from that pursuit he became hooked on acquiring and ultimately hybridizing rhododendrons and azaleas. He has worked with several well-known hybridizers such as Delbert Brim and Marshall Stilwell. The aim was for better yellows but has branched out to producing reds. He plans to scale back his hybridizing and growing efforts and was kind enough to send seeds from many of his 2023 crosses of both Rhododendrons and deciduous Azaleas. The themes of red and yellow will be apparent in the crosses. Even though Ken lives in North Carolina, most of the parent plants also have reasonable hardiness which should be appreciated by our more Northern growers. Where possible there is a link to parentage information for some varieties which might not be as familiar. The quantities of seed are quite small but should be a treat for many.

Two unique offerings this year are Fern spores from two species. Information on growing Ferns will be available.

We are also happy to have received seed from many of our faithful contributors from far and near.

The deadline for submitting members-only orders is **Feb. 15, 2024**.

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 do 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. These will be noted in the seed list. Please send the order form and \$4.00 to cover postage in your preferred 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.15 members-only deadline and continue until April 30, 2024. 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 seeds offered 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

Seed Parent Samples

