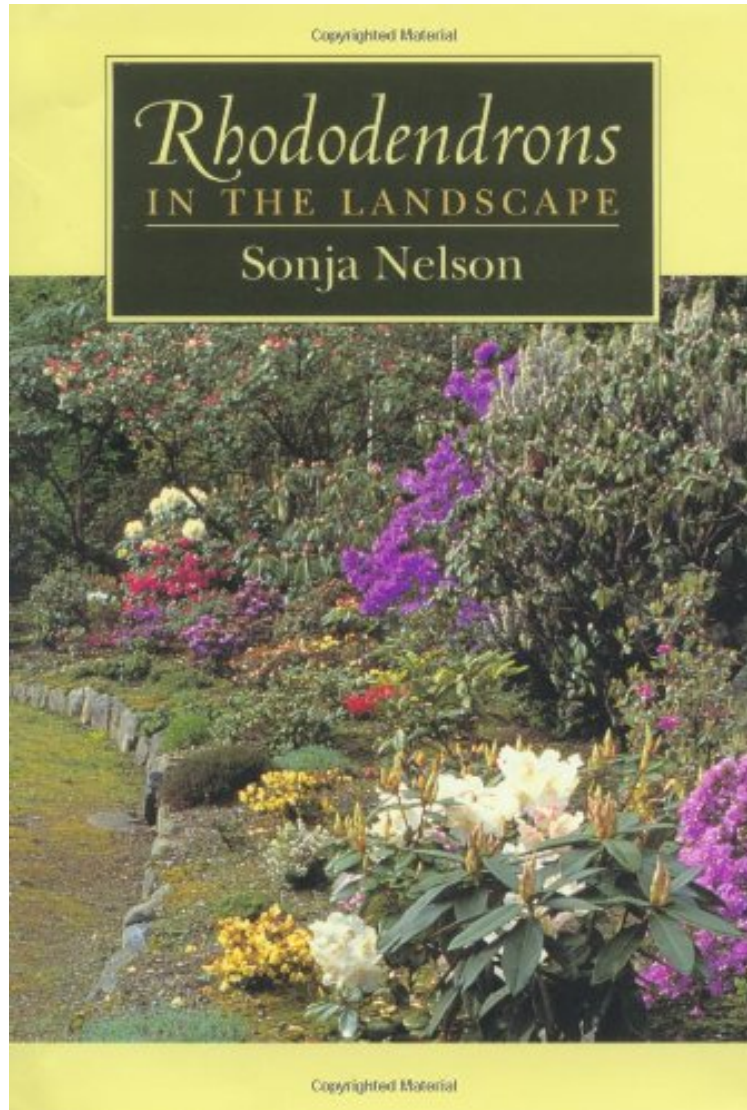


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## Rhododendrons in the Landscape

*Sonja Nelson*

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**Sonja Nelson : Rhododendrons in the Landscape** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rhododendrons in the Landscape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best book on Rhododendron gardening ever!By OlympianThis is a brilliant book by the best contemporary writer on Rhododendron growing. It starts with a history of how Rhododendrons have been used in gardening and landscaping in Britain and the U. S. and then goes on to discuss in detail the principles used in designing a Rhododendron garden, with chapters on woodland gardens, small urban gardens, mixed borders, and so on. I am currently designing a Rhododendron garden of my own and I find this book to

be an invaluable source of garden-design ideas. It is excellently illustrated with many color photographs. It includes guides to famous gardens which Rhododendron enthusiasts can visit, in the U. S. and abroad. Highly recommended!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If I could, I'd rate it between 3 and 4 Stars  
By Gary Anderson  
I do like it and have used it as a reference. It is not quite as extensive as two other well known authors works which I also own. She adds a couple of ideas to the mix. Overall the book is well presented and written. I'd buy it again, even rating it behind the other two.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best technical book!  
By Carol T.  
My only criticism of this book is it's lack of pictures BUT it has the best technical info on Rhododendrons anywhere! Received the book quickly and it was in excellent condition! Thank you! CT

Rhododendrons and azaleas are among the most popular of garden shrubs because of their wonderful variety of colors, textures, shapes, and sizes. Selecting the best species or hybrids for various garden situations can present a real challenge to the gardener. Sonja Nelson, editor of the Journal American Rhododendron Society, offers practical and inspiring guidance on how best to use rhododendrons, starting with a brief explanation of basic design principles that serve as guidelines for creating many different kinds of gardens. She discusses woodland and alpine rock gardens, small gardens, and elements such as island beds, containers, hedges, and water features in which rhododendrons can be effectively used. In addition to suggesting and encouraging the use of suitable companion plants, she provides 19 tables listing species and cultivars most appropriate for specific garden situations. Including many inspiring photographs, the book will enable any gardener or landscaper to display these spectacular plants in harmonious surroundings.

.com There are a great number of books listing rhododendrons, identifying them, and enumerating their virtues. Such books are useful for rhody fanciers who want to learn more about their favorite plants, but do little to help gardeners with what they really need to know: how to choose the best rhododendrons and how to use them in the garden. Sonja Nelson concentrates her considerable experience on explaining which of the many kinds of rhododendrons are the most garden-worthy and how to incorporate them into your garden's design. Color photos show rhodies growing in different conditions, along with a variety of other plantings. Rhododendrons are pictured growing lushly and flowering profusely in gardens in such diverse locales as Los Angeles, Scotland, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. They work well mixed into a perennial border, thriving in a pot (the large-leafed Rhododendrons *sinogrande*), and consorting with a Japanese maple, as in the spectacular combination of lacy foliage found in *R. macrosepalum* "Linearifolium" and *Acer palmatum* "Dissectum." The most useful chapter in the book may be the one on companion plantings for rhododendrons. Finding suitable plants to layer with rhodies can be difficult, as they need plenty of water and have a number of surface roots that don't like competition or disturbance. Nelson sees rhododendrons as versatile plants useful as hedging, pruned up as trees, or layered into borders with a wide variety of shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers, including hydrangeas, Oregon grape, bleeding heart, coral bells, and maidenhair ferns. The old, sterile gardening style--with an expanse of lawn, barked beds, and lined-up shrubs--is over. Nelson provides the gardener with the information he or she needs to make rhododendrons part of the newer, more naturalistic garden filled with a variety of plantings. She also makes a compelling case for rhododendrons' place in mixed borders and convinces the reader that these plants deserve to steal the show. --Valerie Easton  
From Booklist  
The genus Rhododendron (rhododendrons and azaleas), with its nearly 1,000 species and thousands of hybrids, offers a remarkable range of plant forms, foliage texture, and flower color. Nelson writes that Westerners discovered the genus in the mountains of China and the Himalayas and that, later, British gardeners devised grand landscapes with these exotic new plants. In the mid-nineteenth century, Asian rhododendrons were introduced in North America. Nelson offers detailed information on designing and planning a landscape, including specific instructions on creating woodland and rock gardens, mixed borders, a collector's garden, a native plant garden, and a small, or urban, garden. He also provides a list of suggested companion plants, shrubs, and trees. A final chapter focuses on special features, giving information on using the plants as hedges; in island beds surrounded by grass or ground covers; as bonsai, espalier, and topiary; in containers; in raised beds; and next to streams and ponds. George Cohen  
Another informative book from Timber Press. -- Ethel Fried, , Journal Inquirer, March 27, 2000  
Plentiful line drawing and useful color photographs showing rhododendrons in a wide variety of settings are sure to spark ideas. -- Sarah Robertson, The News- , December 2000  
Rhododendrons in the Landscape is the first book to show how to use rhododendrons in all their variety in every kind of planting from beds and borders to rock gardens, water gardens and containers, with excellent illustrations from private and public gardens by the distinguished editor of the Journal of the American Rhododendron Society. -- The Avant Gardener, March 2000  
The author plainly knows her stuff. -- Verney Naylor, Compass - Garden Landscape Designer's Association Newsletter, Summer 2000  
There has long been a need for a comprehensive treatment of the use of rhododendrons in our gardens. -- Journal American Rhododendron Society, Fall 2000