

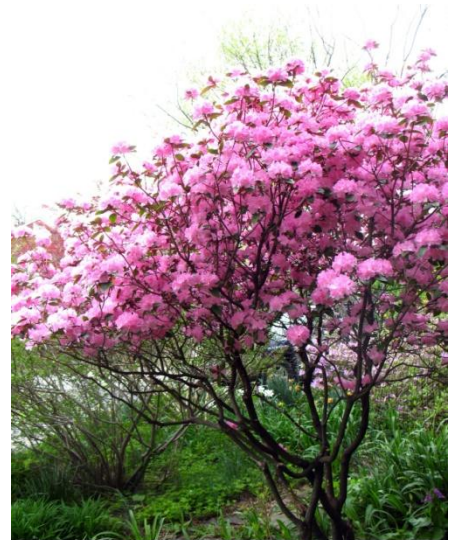
Rhododendron ponticum

Botanical Name: *Rhododendron ponticum*

Common Name: Pontic

Morphological characteristics

R. ponticum is a dense, suckering shrub or small tree growing to 5 m (16 ft) tall, rarely 8 m (26 ft). The leaves are evergreen, 6 to 18 cm (2.4 to 7.1 in) long and 2 to 5 cm (0.79 to 1.97 in) wide. The flowers are 3.5 to 5 cm (1.4 to 2.0 in) in diameter, violet-purple, often with small greenish-yellow spots or streaks. The fruit is a dry capsule 1.5 to 2.5 cm (0.59 to 0.98 in) long, containing numerous small seeds.



Growing season and Type:

1. It spreads rapidly by seed but can also spread by layering. Rhododendron flourishes on acid soils, particularly in mild moist conditions. Once established, it forms dense, long-lived thickets, which cast a heavy shade to the detriment of the ground flora.
2. As rhododendron is very shade tolerant, it is a weed of woodlands and forests, as well as open habitats. Once established, rhododendron can grow under heavy shade.
3. The plants possess characteristics adapted to shade, including a low metabolic rate, resistance to disease, and the ability to increase leaf area in response to a reduction in light intensity.
4. Being evergreen, rhododendron has the ability to make use of winter light conditions when the overhead deciduous canopy is leafless.



1



2



3

- 1) Flower of *Rhododendron ponticum*
- 2) Leaf of *Rhododendron ponticum*
- 3) *Rhododendron ponticum* plant