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## Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles. Volume III

Author(s) : [Bean, W. J.](#)

Book : [Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles. Volume III N-Rh.](#) 1976 No.Ed. 8 ref.many

Abstract : This long awaited volume is the largest of the three so far published and contains no fewer than 402 pages (almost half the total) devoted to the genus Rhododendron. It represents years of meticulous work by a team of editors led by Desmond Clarke. As in the previous volumes, botanical and horticultural aspects are well balanced: one of the most attractive features of "Bean" is the readable style in which the information is presented, appealing to the amateur and professional alike. T

editors have followed W.J. Bean's example by adding a personal touch, with the plant collectors and raisers themselves. The hybridization of *Rhododendron sargentianum* and *R. trichostomum*, which produced the floriferous and sturdy form is described (page 893) by Collingwood Ingram thus: "I was obliged to go dark and employ a watchmaker's glass to see what I was doing. I cannot honestly say that the seedlings from this effort have proved any more beautiful than either of the parents. I can say they are very definitely more vigorous and consequently easier to propagate". The fascinating history of *Potentilla* cv. Tangerine (a note on the history of the potentilla, Red Ace, has been added in proof) provides another example of enthusiasm and patience. There are many references to the taxonomic problems encountered during revision, as with the genus *Philadelphus* and the identity of the form known as *Platanus acerifolia* (the theory that it is a hybrid between *P. orientalis* and *P. occidentalis* is being tested by means of an artificial cross made in 1968, the results having yet to reach maturity). The section on *Rhododendron* represents the most significant change in presentation from the previous edition. The series are no longer in the same order but are grouped under four headings: lepidote rhododendrons; eleptheranth rhododendrons; azaleas; and azaleastrums. Hybrids, including inter-specific ones, are dealt with in detail in a separate chapter. There is a useful selection of photographs and the number of photographs has been greatly increased. All the plates, in black and white, and the line drawings are of high quality and it is regrettable that publishing costs prohibit colour reproduction other than in "coffee table" books.

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