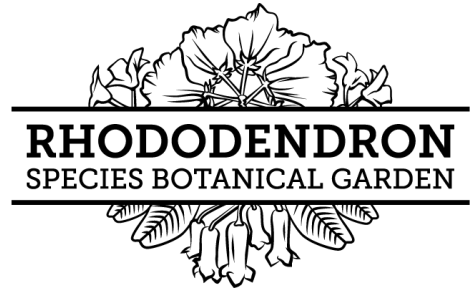


## Troubleshooting Rhododendron Problems



- Physiological leaf spot
  - Fungal issue
  - Cultural/environmental stress
  - Secondary infection after mechanical damage
- Marginal leaf necrosis
  - Cold damage
  - Drought
  - High amounts of salts in the soil (too much soluble fertilizer)
  - Root issue
  - Nutrient deficiency
- Pests
  - Lacebug
  - Root Weevil
  - Rhododendron leafminer
  - Azalea sawfly
  - Whitefly
  - Rhododendron leafhoppers
- Diseases
  - Root rot
  - Powdery mildew (resistant cultivar: *R. luteum* 'Golden Comet')
  - Leaf spotting caused by fungus, virus, and chemical injury
  - Galls
  - Rusts
- Greenhouse problems
  - Sooty mold caused by scales, aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies, etc.
  - Thrips
- Nutrient deficiency
  - N deficiency-chlorotic leaves
  - Fe deficiency-green veins with yellow surroundings (often caused by poor drainage)
- Human error
  - Watch out for rootstock growth on grafted rhododendrons
  - Drought
- Why is my rhody not blooming?
  - Too shady
  - Not old enough
  - Pruned after summer
  - Year of "rest"
  - Weather
  - Too happy!

- The best defense to keep your plants healthy is a good practice in
  - Cultivation methods
  - Cultivar selection
  - Location selection
  - Garden hygiene
  
- Chemical controls should be used only in a minimal and highly targeted manner