LIST OF COMMON DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS OF RHODODENDRONS

There are pest problems on rhododendron that occur almost every year in Connecticut.

I. COMMON PROBLEMS
   A. BIOTIC PROBLEMS: (caused by living agents)
      1. Diseases
      2. Insects
   B. ABIOTIC PROBLEMS: (caused by nonliving agents)
      1. Cultural
      2. Environmental

II. PEST CONTROL
   A. ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS:
   B. SEVERITY OF PROBLEM:
      1. Nature of pest problem (i.e., type of insect or disease)
      2. Level of disease or infestation (i.e., loss threshold)
   C. CONTROL OPTIONS:
      1. Culture-
         this includes cultural methods that modify the plant's growing conditions; maintaining plant vigor by proper watering, fertilizing, appropriately timed pruning and transplanting, adequate spacing, improving the tilth of the soil, adjusting soil pH;
      2. Sanitation-
         this involves use of healthy, disease-free cuttings or plants; pruning of affect plant parts; raking and removing affected plant parts such as fallen leaves; disinfecting tools such as pruning shears and spades;
      3. Resistance-
         this involves use of resistant cultivars, when available;
      4. Chemical-
this involves proper selection and timing of pesticides which are registered for use in control of specific diseases or insect pests.

**III. DISEASES CAUSED BY FUNGI**

**A. ROOT ROTTS:**
1. Phytophthora Root Rot-
   *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
   *Phytophthora spp.*
2. Armillaria Root Rot-
   *Armillaria mellea*
3. Damping-off and Root Rot-
   *Pythium spp.*
   *Rhizoctonia solani*

**B. DIEBACKS, BLIGHTS, AND LEAF SPOTS:**
1. Botryosphaeria Dieback-
   *Botryosphaeria dothidea*
2. Phomopsis Dieback-
   *Phomopsis spp.*
3. Phytophthora Dieback-
   *Phytophthora spp.*
4. Leaf and Flower Gall-
   *Exobasidium spp.*
5. Powdery Mildew-
   *Microsphaera penicillata*
   *Sphaerotheca pannosa*
   *Erysiphe cruciferarum*
6. Leaf Spots-
   many different fungi
7. Rusts-
   *Chrysomyxa* spp. (10 species)
   *Aecidium* spp. (2 species)
   *Pucciniastrum* spp. (1 species)
   *Puccinia* spp. (1 species)
   * reported in United States

**IV. DISEASES CAUSED BY BACTERIA**

**A. Crown Gall:**
*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*

**V. DISEASES CAUSED BY VIRUSES**

**A. Rhododendron Necrotic Ringspot Virus**

**VI. INSECT PESTS**

**A. Black Vine Weevil:**
*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*
B. Rhododendron Borer:  
   *Synanashedon rhododendri*
C. Rhododendron Tip Midge:  
   *Clinodiplosis rhododendri*

**VII. ABIOTIC PROBLEMS**
A. Winter Injury and/or Drying
B. Nutrient Deficiencies

**VIII. UNUSUAL PROBLEMS**
A. Leaf Flooding
B. Vole Injury

December 1997 (revised)