

California Phenology Project:
species profile for
Pacific Rhododendron
(*Rhododendron macrophyllum*)



CPP site(s) where this species is monitored: Redwood National Park

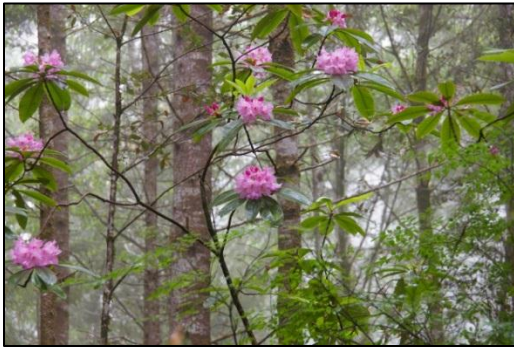


Photo credit: Scott Catron (Flickr)

What does this species look like?

This species is a broadleaved evergreen shrub with grayish-brown bark. The thick leathery leaves are dark green and whorled at the tip of branches. The bell-shaped flowers are light to rose pink and 2-4 centimeters long. They are found in large loose clusters at the end of the branches. The fruit is a small brown five-parted capsule.

When monitoring this species, use the USA-NPN broadleaf evergreen trees and shrubs datasheet.

Species facts!

- The CPP four letter code for this species is **RHMA**.
- This has been the official flower of Washington State since 1892, chosen in a state-wide vote only open to women before the 1893 Chicago World Fair.
- The leaves, flowers and nectar of this species can be toxic to humans and livestock. Honey made from the floral nectar has also been shown to be toxic.
- Flowers have been observed to be visited by bumblebees, syrphid flies, and butterflies.



Photo credit: Stassia Samuels



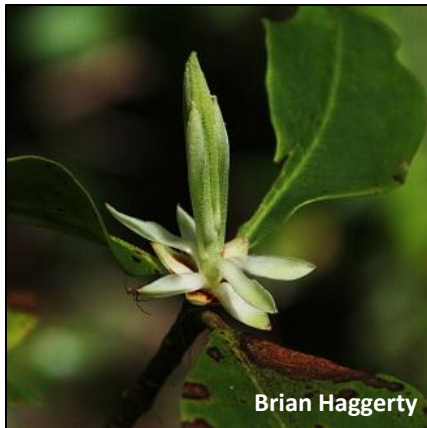
Photo credit: Stassia Samuels

Where is this species found?

- Found along the Pacific coast, between Monterey County and British Columbia.
- Occurs in moist coniferous forests .
- Found at elevations less than 1100 meters.
- Thrives in disturbed habitats.

For more information about phenology and the California Phenology Project (CPP), please visit the CPP website (www.usanpn.org/cpp) and the USA-NPN website (www.usanpn.org)

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Brian Haggerty

Breaking leaf buds

This phenophase can be difficult to identify; remember, you can circle ? if you are unsure of what you are seeing!



Brian Haggerty

Young leaves

Young leaves tend to be brighter in color and thinner than mature leaves



Brian Haggerty

Flowers or flower buds

When monitoring flower or flower bud abundance for this species, count each inflorescence as a single flowering structure! For example, if there are two inflorescences with many flowers or buds each, then abundance should be recorded as <3.



Stassia Samuels

Open flowers

Each flower has both male and female parts. Proportion of open flowers should be recorded at the scale of individual flowers, not inflorescences (i.e. count individual flowers)!

Note: flower phenophases are nested; if you record Y for "open flowers" you should also record Y to "flowers or flower buds"



Steven Krause

Fruits

A fruit is a woody capsule that changes from green to rusty brown, and splits open to expose the seeds when ripe.



Stassia Samuels

Ripe fruits

The fruit is considered ripe when it is dry and splits open to expose the seeds.

Note: fruit phenophases are nested; if you record Y for "ripe fruits" you should also record Y to "fruits"

Phenophases not picture: Recent fruit or seed drop