*Rhaphiolepis umbellata*  syn. *Raphiolepis*  (Yeddo-hawthorn, Yedda hawthorn)

This is a broad dome shaped hardy evergreen shrub from the Rosaceae family. There is an example of this species growing in the Amenity Area in the border to the south of the pond. Other examples are to the north of the Water Tower near the Recreation Centre. This is a relatively slow growing species that after many years is likely to be only one and a half metres or so in height with a spread of two to three metres or so.

The above example was in front of the Works Office, but was recently removed along with all the rest of the plants in this area.

Leaves are simple, alternate, petiolate, obovate, leathery. Flowers are white in terminal racemes or panicles in mid spring, followed by blue-black pomes.
Rhododendron

*Rhododendron* species, hybrids and cultivars include the commonly grown deciduous and evergreen azaleas. Over the years a large number of rhododendrons have been planted at Lincoln, most are evergreen, with the exception of the mid spring flowering deciduous azaleas (*Rhododendron molle* and *R. japonicum* and hybrids between them). Most rhododendron are spring flowering, but there are some that tend to flower from July depending on the weather and most have finished by December. Flower colours range from white to pinks, purples reds, yellows and oranges, with a few bordering on blue shades. Few are fragrant. *Rhododendron x fragrantissima* is an example of fragrant flowering species on campus. Estimates of the number of *Rhododendron* species that exist vary, the New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening suggest up to eight hundred. The same publication suggests that there are “over 20,000 cultivars, (mainly selections from hybrids and back crosses) have been registered by the Royal Horticultural Society (the Registration Authority for the genus), and several hundred new ones are registered every year”. Rhododendrons can range in size from low growing ground cover examples such as *R. williamsianum* (an example used to be in the rock garden to the south of Forbes where there are now cabbage trees), to trees of thirty metres or more. Some species have tiny leaves to others with very large leaves. Because of the inherent difficulty in identifying hybrids and cultivars of rhododendrons accurately, I shall just concentrate on a few examples I am moderately confident of. From the data base of campus plants I developed over many years there are around 150 different rhododendrons, many from lists Martin Capstick - Grounds Manager at Lincoln for many years provided me. I will illustrate just some of these that I know still exist, many others will have to be considered at a later date, possibly with the help of some rhododendron specialists. I have also relied on plant labels and Dan Dennehy of the Grounds Department for cultivar names for this genus.

*Rhododendron augustinii*

This example is on the south side of the Recreation Centre, photographed 15th October 2008
Rhododendron ‘Bibiana’
There is an example of this red flowering cultivar in the border to the north of Hudson Hall that runs parallel with Ellesmere Junction Road. This example is midway in the border on the northern side and just west of midway. It was first observed flowering in late August with the main flowering later in September and October. It is currently a shrub of about 1m in height and spread.

The above photo was taken 16th September 2008

Rhododendron ‘Christmas Cheer’
This is a more or less bun shaped shrub that may flower as early as the start of July. It is a winter flowering cultivar, examples at Lincoln include the area east of the Lodge, west of Hilgendorf near the pin oak in the raised planted, possibly south of Memorial Hall and in the area west of the Natural Resources Engineering Buildings. Flowers are likely to be frosted if this cultivar is growing in the open, unprotected from any overhead tree branches or the like. This is a bun shaped cultivar, likely to grow to about 2m in height and spread in 20 years.

Full flowering is likely in the second week of August at Lincoln.
Rhododendron ‘Cornubia’

Rhododendron ‘Cornubia’ pictured below is a shrub that grows to 2-3m normally over twenty of so years, it may spread to a similar distance. It has attractive red flowers, but flowers are early often in July if there has been a prolonged warm period. In a normal year this cultivar is likely to be in flower toward the end of July and through August. Flowers are often destroyed by subsequent frosts that invariably occur. Overhead shelter from tree canopies or similar can help ameliorate the worst effects of frost, or alternatively select later flowering cultivars. Examples of this cultivar are growing west of Hilgendorf, Hudson and south west of the Refectory.

Rhododendron ‘Elegans’

This cultivar is at the south end of the holm oak to the north eastern end of the Nursery potting shed, there may be other places on campus where this cultivar is grown. Photos below taken 16th Oct 2008
There are examples of *Rhododendron x fragrantissimum* against the north facing wall of Stewart Building and examples that were planted in the Betula Border (seen below), west of Hudson and other areas on campus. This is a white flowered species (pink in bud), that flowers mid to late spring and is fragrant. It has somewhat straggly growth and quite open habit. It is usually about two metres in height and spread after twenty years or so.

30th October, 2008

North side of Stewart Building, also at Nursery – n.e. and eastern end of Betula Border
Rhododendron ‘Freeman Stevens’

This cultivar is the only example on campus and was photographed on 16th October 2008 in full flower. It was planted around May 1991.

Rhododendron ‘Gill’s Crimson’

There is one example of this cultivar growing in the Amenity area amongst the magnolias to the west and slightly north of the garage. The photo below was taken 16th September 2008
**Rhododendron grande**

This is a large leaved species growing south of Burns Wing. It has flowers in mid to late spring that are more or less pink fading to white and grey. In twenty or so years in good conditions this species would be about 3m tall and not as wide. It has a more open form than some species, although this may depend on the degree of shade individual plants experience. This is a relatively slow growing species that improves with age.

Upright, open habit, large leaves up to 30cm long with prominent veins.

Flowers bell shaped, pink in bud opening to ivory white with grey-purple markings at petal base. This photo showing flowers is from an example of the same species growing at home.
Rhododendron ‘Ivery’s Scarlet’

There is one example of this on campus that I am aware of, it is growing in the Amenity area. This cultivar flowers in mid to late spring, (the picture below was taken 16th September 2008). This cultivar is likely to be around 2m in height and spread after 20 years or so.
Rhododendron japonicum x R. molle hybrids and cultivars (deciduous azaleas)

Deciduous azaleas stand out as being different from most other examples of rhododendrons that are evergreen. This group of plants including Ilam hybrids, bred in Christchurch, are well known for their bright coloured and slightly fragrant flowers on bare stems in mid to late spring. There are examples of these in the old Formal Garden to the north west of the Commerce Building, other examples are seen in the Betula Border.

Winter buds

I am unsure of the cultivar name of these vividly coloured deciduous azaleas in the Betula border. Seedlings can be grown also and will produce a range of colours usually, from pale yellows, reds and oranges to vivid bright shades of the same. Most have a light fragrance and flower in mid spring for a period of about four weeks. Cultivars are all cutting grown.
Rhododendron maddennii

This species is toward the eastern end of the Betula Border and was photographed on the 30th October 2008. The bud indicating flowering was going to happen, possibly sometime toward mid or late November and into December. Unfortunately I did not get back to this species at the appropriate time, so will have to record flowering at another time. This was probably planted during Martin Capstick's reign as Grounds supervisor during the 1980's or thereabouts. This is a good looking specimen just from its form and foliage.

A more or less bun shaped shrub of 1.5m or so high and 2.5m across after about 25 years (estimate).

Good tidy clean looking foliage suggests to me this would be a good species to grow in Canterbury gardens.
Rhododendron morii

This is an attractive and unusual rhododendron that Dan Dennehy identified for me. It is growing in the border west of Hudson Hall, toward the northern end. Flowering is mid spring, but even when not in flower this species looks worth growing for its form and foliage. The leaves are covered in silvery tomentum all year round.

Photographed in bud 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 2008

Photographed in flower 8\textsuperscript{th} October 2008
Rhododendron ‘Mystique’

This is a labelled plant near the north western corner of Forbes in a border almost opposite the north eastern entrance to Hudson Hall. Dan Dennehy alerted to me to this cultivar which he informed me was bred by Barry Sligh of Governors Bay. The label suggests it is a hybrid between \textit{R. ‘Mai Tai’} x \textit{R. ‘Nancy Evans’}.

This is a relatively new planting, probably made about 2006.

The pictures above were both taken on 23\textsuperscript{rd} September 2008.
*Rhododendron 'Nico'*

There is possibly just one example of this cultivar of evergreen azalea growing on the western side of the pond in the Amenity area. Photo 30th October 2008.

*Rhododendron 'Niveum'*

There is just a single example of this cultivar in the border opposite the north western end of Hudson Hall. It was in flower on 15th October 2008 when this picture was taken.
**Rhododendron ‘Percy Wiseman’**

This is another example in the Amenity area, the names are based on the plants sourced and grown on by the Lincoln Nursery for their annual plant sales. The rhododendrons in the Amenity area were based to some degree on what I was able to scrounge from the annual sales. This cultivar was also photographed in October, it is a compact bun shaped form and I would expect it to be little more than a metre or so after 20 years.

19th October 2008

30th October 2008, Amenity area
There are a few examples of *Rhododendron ponticum* on campus, one example planted in 1986 is against the south wall of the Winery another group of plants is north of Matron’s car park to the south and east of a collection of New Zealand native plants south of Gillespie. This species is more tolerant of drier areas than many others, it flowers about mid spring and flowers are purple, all parts of this particular species are poisonous and it has been known to taint honey. This is a hardy species that is more or less bun shaped and grows 2-3m in height and spread.
*Rhododendron 'President Roosevelt'*

This cultivar has flowers in mid spring, (picture right taken 23\textsuperscript{rd} September 2008). Its main value is that the leaves are variegated, this feature is quite unusual in rhododendrons. There are two examples of this cultivar on campus that I am aware of, one is against the west wall of the library toward the south end, the other is at the nursery at the south end of the holm oak shelter belt. The nursery example is clearly under some stress and has largely reverted back from the variegated to the green leaved form. This cultivar is more or less bun shaped and likely to grow a little more than a metre in height and spread over 20 years or so, unless it reverts and then three metres or more.

*Rhododendron 'Rubicon'*

There is an example of this cultivar growing in the border opposite the western side of Hudson a few metres north of the path leading to the car park on Calder Drive, there is another example on the western wall of the library of about the same age. Dan Dennehy from the Grounds Department identified this cultivar for me. The above picture was taken on 16\textsuperscript{th} September 2008. This appears to be a very good red flowered option.
Rhododendron ‘Ruby Burman’ is another example growing in the Amenity area amongst the magnolias and associated with other plants of the Ericaceae close by such as Ledum, Erica, Arctostaphylos, Kalmia and so on. This cultivar was also photographed on the 19th October.

Rhododendron ‘Russautinii’

There is a single example of this cultivar growing on the western side of the pond in the Amenity area toward the northern end. The photo below was taken on 16th September 2008.
*Rhododendron* 'Saffron Queen'

There are examples of this yellow flowering cultivar on the western facing wall of the Library and also growing on the north side of the old Formal Garden opposite the eastern side of the Library. On the right side of the picture below is *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt' flowering at the same time.

A relatively slow growing cultivar

Both pictures above were photographed 23\textsuperscript{rd} September 2008.
**Rhododendron ‘Seta’**

This is a smaller growing cultivar that was photographed on 7\textsuperscript{th} August. Because it is likely to flower so early it is also likely to be hit by frosts and flowers destroyed. If this cultivar is chosen it needs to be under trees offering at least some degree of overhead protection. This cultivar is recorded as having been planted in the Betula Border toward the eastern end, in the border west of Hilgendorf toward the southern end and to the north of Forbes.

![Rhododendron ‘Seta’](image1)

**Rhododendron ‘Winsome’**

There is an example of this species that was planted along the south facing wall of the Horticultural Teaching lab. in 1986. It is little more than a metre or so in height after more than 20 years with a spread of about one and a half metres. This cultivar has deep pink flowers in mid to late spring and is very hardy.

![Rhododendron ‘Winsome’](image2)
Roldana petasites  syn. Senecio petasites

This is an evergreen soft wooded shrub or sub shrub, it is probably the only example on campus. It is growing against the north facing wall of one of the middle blocks within Centennial Hall. This is a frost tender species and needs the reradiated heat from a situation like this. Leaves are large, simple, alternate broadly ovate to orbicular with seven lobes on long petioles, most parts covered in soft hairs. Early flowers were seen against the wall in mid August 2008.

Early flowers above photographed 19th. Aug. 2008

Flowering above in mid November. Capitula arranged in axillary panicles.

Shrub spreads from upright shoots at the base, height usually less than 1.5m, spread similar. This is more commonly seen in warmer areas, not common in Canterbury.
*Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary)

This is a soft wooded shrub or sub shrub. It has been grown in a number of areas on campus over the years and once it becomes straggly it tends to be cut out, rather than rejuvenated by pruning. There are a number of cultivars of this species, all need to be grown in a full sun position. Flowers of cultivars are generally pale blue, although some are intensely bright blue, another is a shade of purplish pink. Cultivars vary between upright forms and spreading ground cover types, most seem hardy and free of pest and diseases, they do respond to pruning as necessary. Rosemary usually has at least some flowers at any time of the year. It is easily recognised by crushing the leaves which emit a very distinctive aroma. Leaves are simple, opposite, flowers are grey-blue, strongly zygomorphic. Rosemary is commonly used as a culinary herb.

*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Lockwood de Forest' is a low growing cultivar with deep blue flowers, this cultivar is growing north of the new Grounds Department area. It is a selection of the upright growing cultivar 'Tuscan Blue'

*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Majorca Pink' is an upright growing cultivar at the Amenity area.
*Rosmarinus officinalis* ‘Prostratus’ is a sprawling ground cover that may grow to about half a metre high with a much greater spread.

*Rosmarinus officinalis* ‘Tuscan Blue’ is an upright growing cultivar that often has some flowers at almost any time of the year. This example is in Farm Road west of the Arts Workshop on the south side of the road.