

Rhododendrons & Azaleas

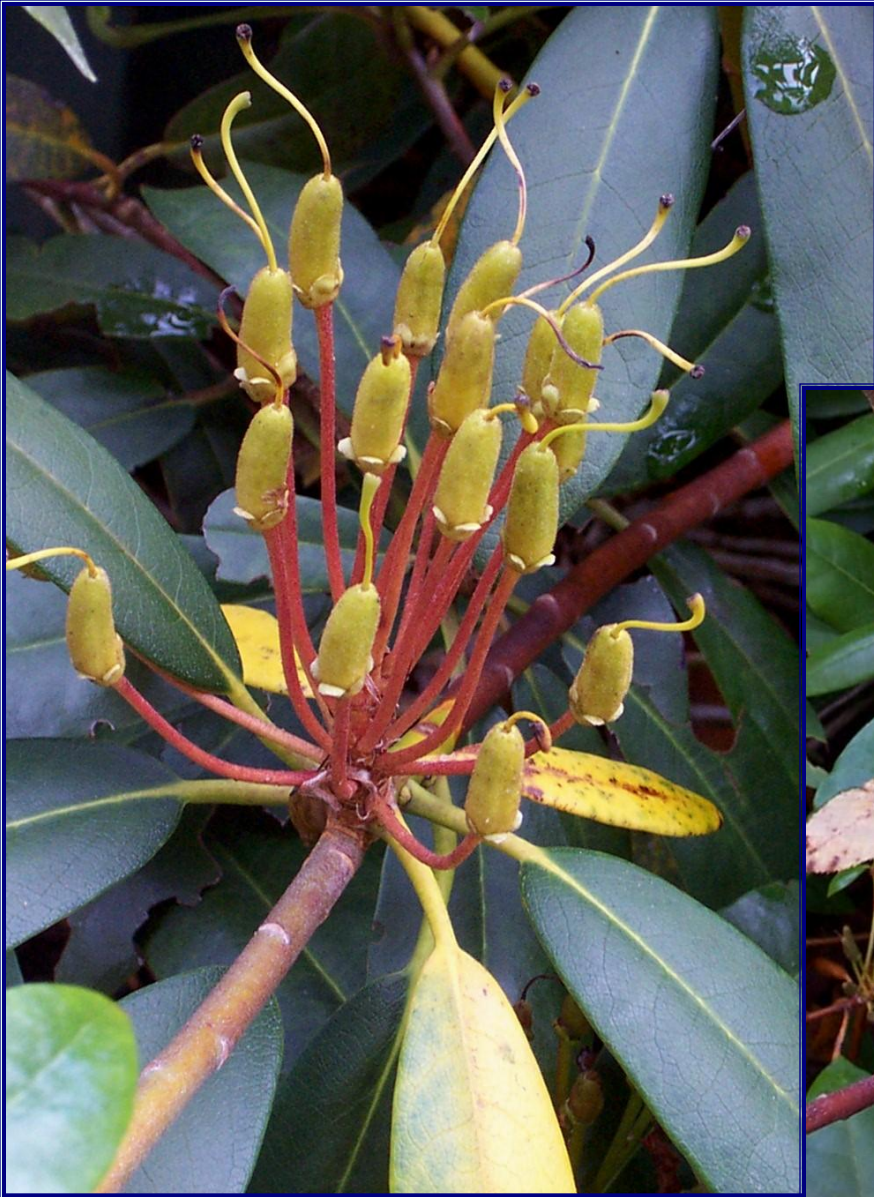


Welcome to the
Willow
Garden

**grown from seed ...
' The Willow Garden ' way**



**Seed Pods-
not quite ripe**



Let's start at the very beginning...

AZALEA SEED PODS



seeds from pods!

Rhododendron Seed Pods



seeds from pods

SEEDS SIDE BY SIDE



Azalea

Rhododendron



The Planting Begins



The Growing Mix

- Peat Moss - 20L
- Perlite - 10L
- Pro-Mix -10L
- Super Phosphate
.....15 ml as a slurry
- Instant dissolving
..15-30-15 regular strength

Assemble Seed Packs



Label Pots



- Fill pots
- Tamp lightly

**shake small
quantity of
seed into
hand**





**sprinkle seed
sparsely
on surface**

Place seeded pots in tray to soak Drain on pad of newspaper





**Seal pots in
plastic food
storage bags**



Sealed bags under lights..... Note slight layer of condensation



Seedling Expectations

- **Trays about 12” from light**
- **Light period 14 Hours +/-
.... cool white tubes**
- **Germination can be expected within
..... 10-21 days**
- **Check bags periodically for mould....
..... remove with tweezers**
- **Temperature ~70F/ 20C**

- **Seedlings stay in bags until
~2nd set leaves**
- **Crowded pots should be thinned**
- **Gradually open bags / expose to air**
- **Monitor moisture as bags are opened**
- **Transplant when plants are
acclimated....and big enough to handle
.....~ 10-14 weeks**

Seedlings still in Plastic



8-10 weeks

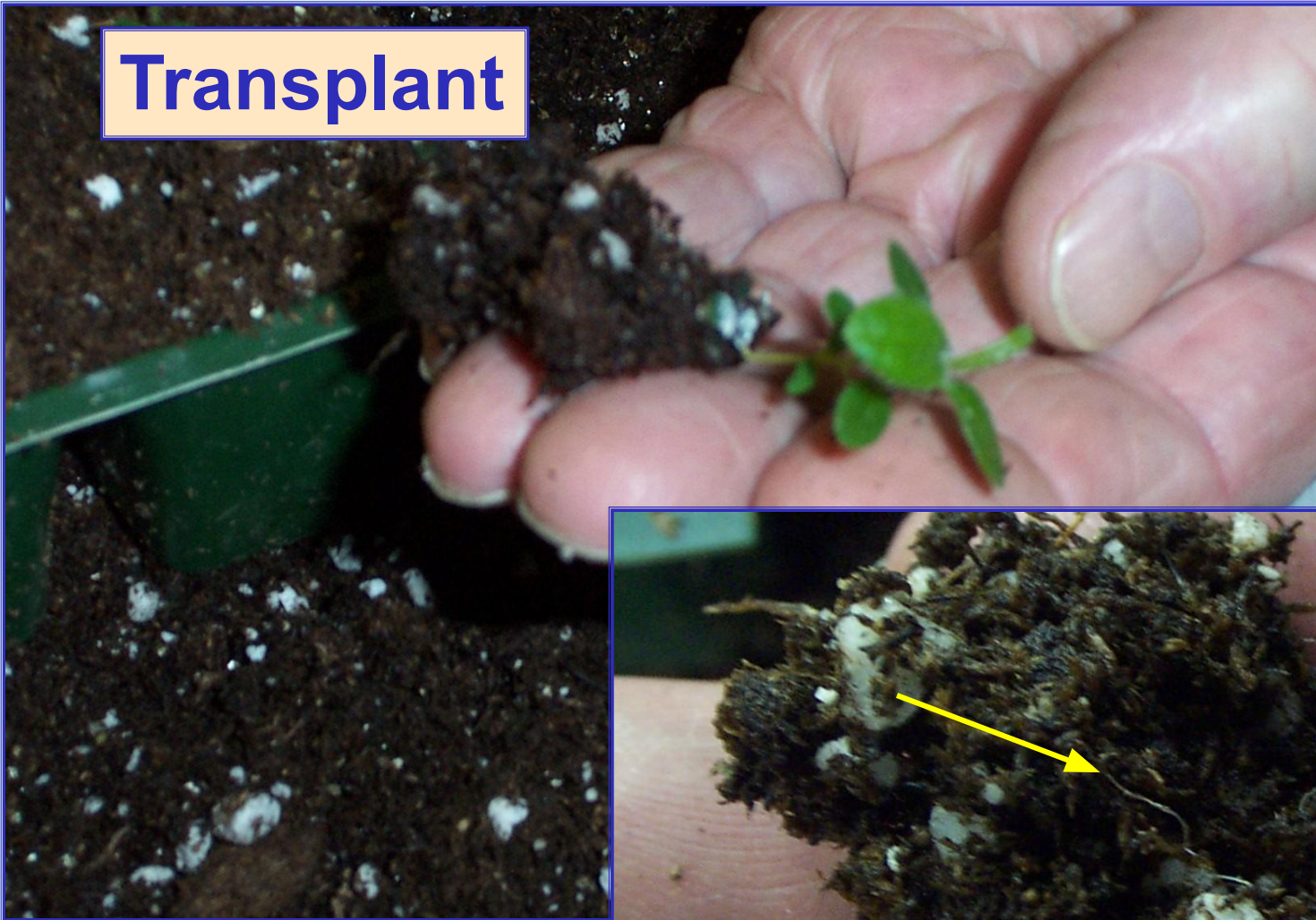
**Many pots of seedlings
..... about ready to transplant**



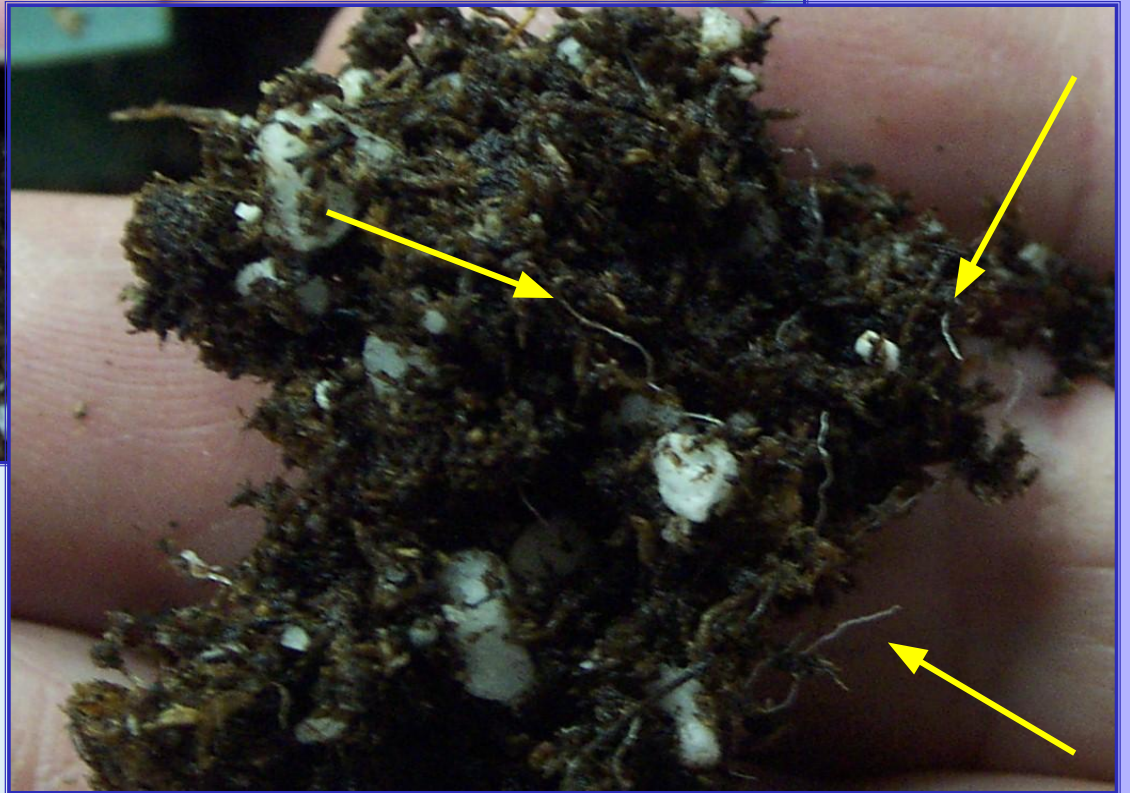


**seedlings
ready for
transplant**

Transplant



lots of roots





**seedlings
~ Feb1
from late Oct.
sowing**

seedlings transplanted to 6-cell packs



into tray to be watered, drain on paper



Rhodies



Azaleas

R. mucronulatum seedlings





**each 6-cell pack
has a vinyl label
with seed lot info**

Growing Cabinet with Transplants

Feb 18, 2004



Transplanted Seedling Care

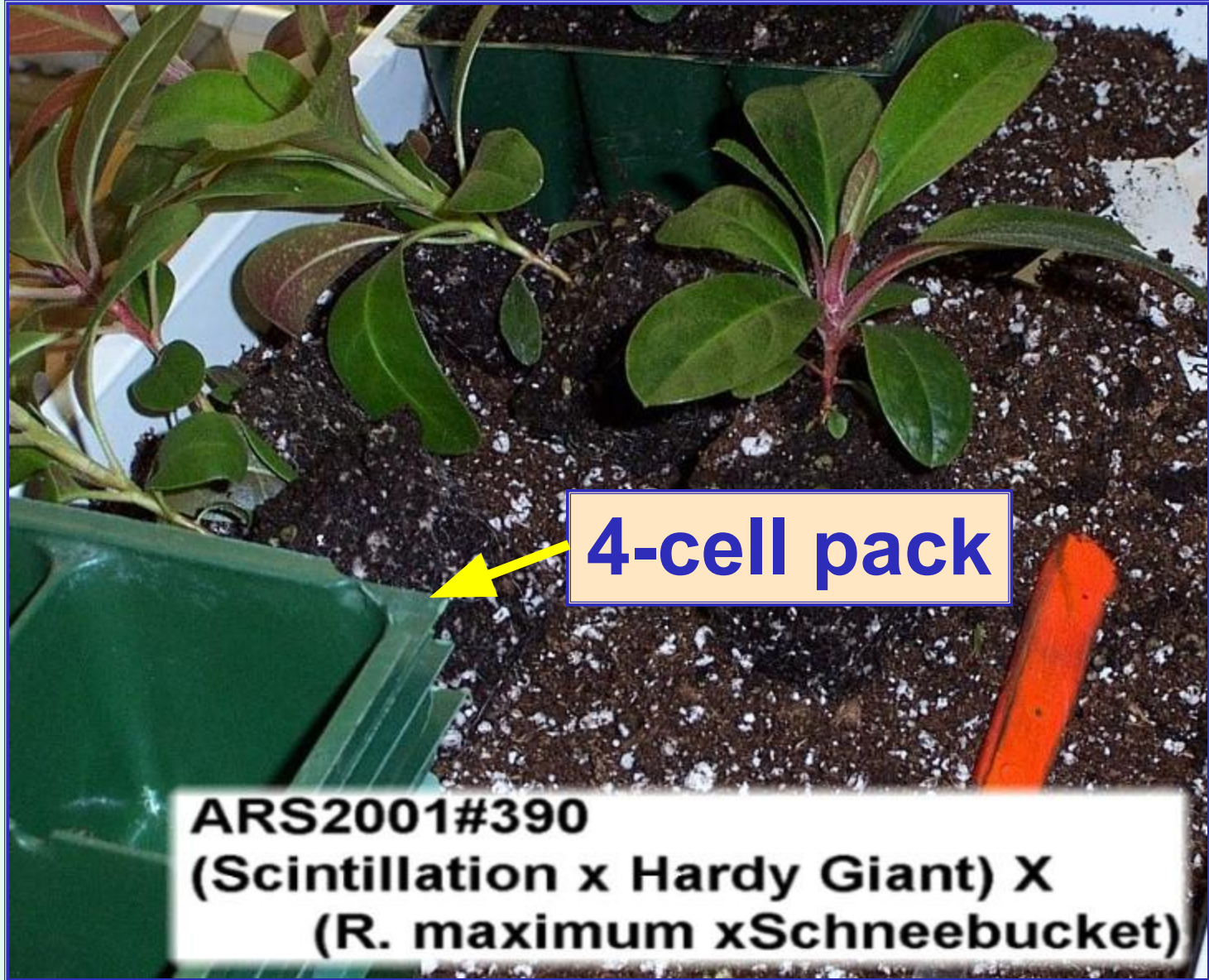
- Water from bottom- we use rain water
- Water with a dilute (1/8) fertilizer
e.g. 15-30-15 @ each watering
- Maintain high moisture levels
- Rotate trays for even growth
- Talk to them each day!

about the 6-month stage

- **Most azaleas and small leaf rhodies will need to be pinched**
- **Fast growing types may need to move to a 4-cell pack**
- **Example of a fast growing type.....**

Precocious ARS'01 #390





4-cell pack

**ARS2001#390
(Scintillation x Hardy Giant) X
(R. maximum xSchneebucket)**



ARS2001#390
(Scintillation x Hardy Giant) X
(R. maximum xSchneebucket)

.... more of this one later....

Plants as they might appear ~ 6 months



orbiculare X 'Minas Grand Pre' (WEA)

AR55/2001



**(aureum x 'Prelude') BPT#80-5 X
(yakushimanum x aureum) Berg (WEA)**

'Vinecrest' X (yakushmanum X aureum)Berg (SHA)

AR63/2001





'Minas Grand Pre' x 'Tantramar' (PET)

Azaleas in 6-pack ~5 months

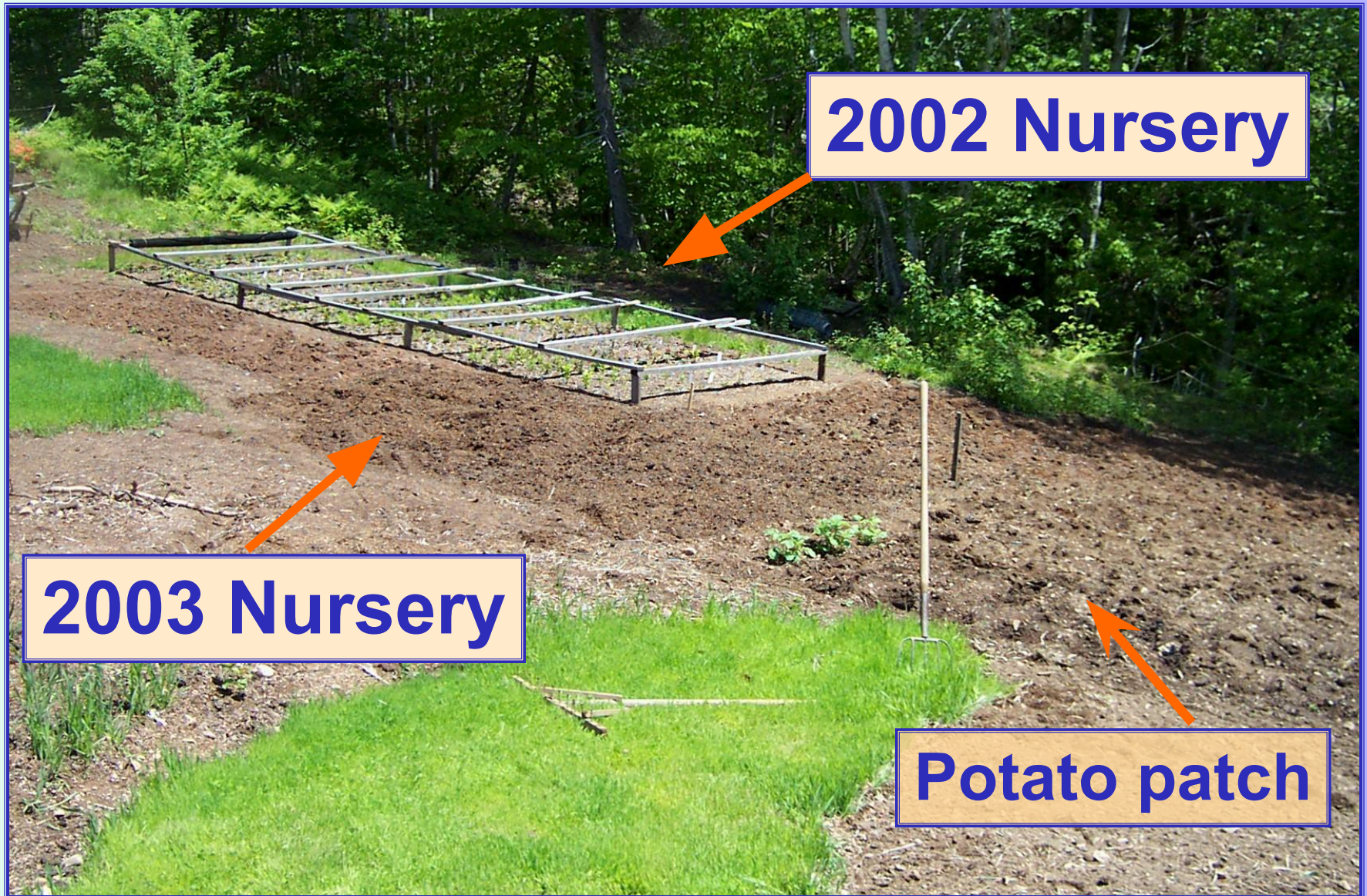


Azalea seedlings

Transition to the 'real world'

- Well - rooted seedlings are ready to go outside by mid-June to mid-July
- A week or so of gradual exposure to wind and moderate light
- Trays should now have drainage if they are exposed to rain
- Plant in a nursery bed area or cold frame

Preparation of Nursery Bed- June '04



Nursery bed - mostly dug up

50% shade on last years plants

Early June

Claymore



Rhodie Soil Preparation

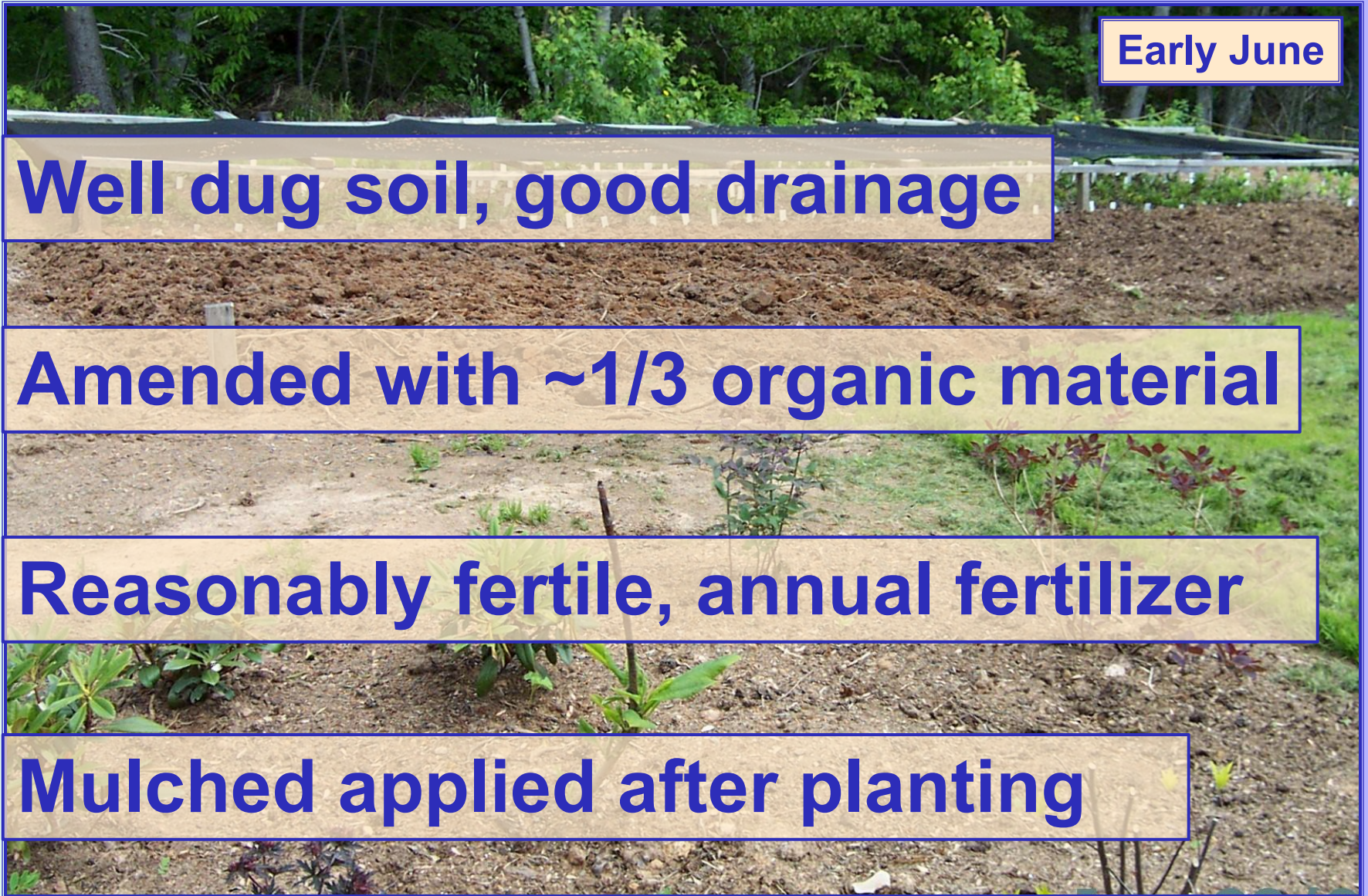
Early June

Well dug soil, good drainage

Amended with ~1/3 organic material

Reasonably fertile, annual fertilizer

Mulched applied after planting



Rhodie Planting Techniques



Site: sun / half shade

Give wind protection

Plant same depth as in pot

Loosen rootball if necessary

Water well through season

Seedlings in Nursery ... late July



mulch

View of partly planted 2001 nursery



Shade cloth over 2003 seedling bed



July 27/04

Ground-level view of seedlings



**labels -
printed both ends
2 inserted in each row**

...speaking of labels

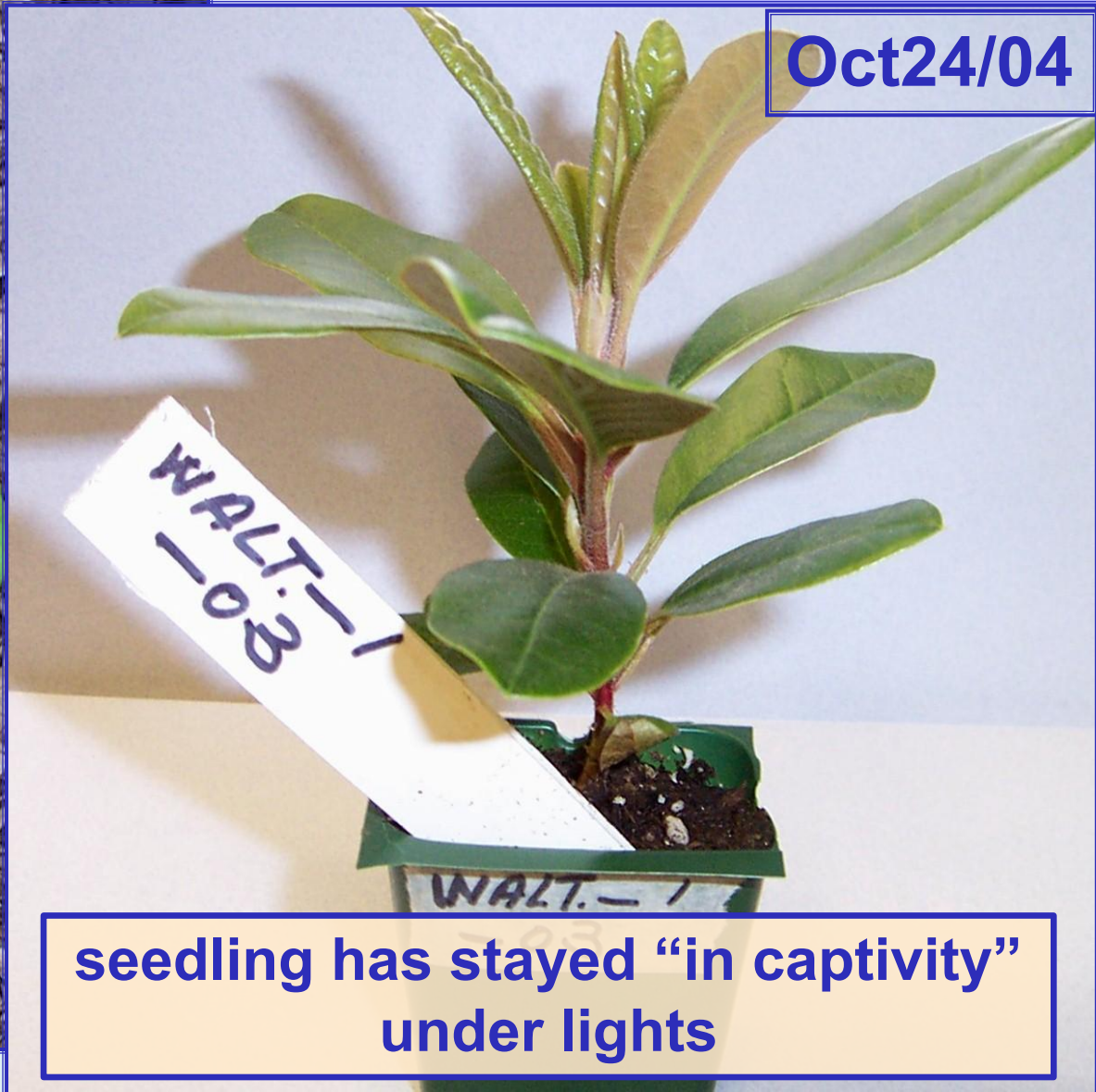


**embossable wired
aluminum labels**

'Haaga' x 'Barbara Cook'



Oct24/04



seedling has stayed "in captivity"
under lights

new growth

QUALT-1
1-03

Maui x Barbara Cook



shade cloth removed early autumn



seedling bed with fall colors

Oct19/04



AZALEA SEEDLINGS IN AUTUMN



Winterization

- **Erect a baffle to give wind protection**
- **Extra mulch can be applied**
- **Evergreen branches may be used**

baffle for winter partly installed

Oct20/04



Claymore



Baffle for wind protection

seedlings after first winter

early spring





protective baffle

**seedlings after
first winter**

2002 seedlings after a full year

2004
Aug2/04

checking for weeds



2002 seedlings after a full year





Azaleas

**late summer-
shade off
last year's
seedlings**

Spring Jobs

- **Fertilize, if needed**
- **Renew mulch**
- **Nip tops of small azaleas**
- **Prune rhodies as soon as new vegetative shoots elongate**
- **Weed out poor or damaged plants**



**spring jobs
to enhance
seedlings**

**throw away
the 'duds'**

**prune to enhance
bushiness**

**AR99 #31
Bravo x *R. sutchuenense***

**single vegetative
growth bud**



**AR99#31
Bravo x *R. sutchuenense***

scar left by pruning



Multiple new shoots



Usually get as least two-three new shoots

Seedling Progress - year 1

ARS02#41

**(Bronze Wings x Mary Belle), red form
X Barbara Cook**



Seedling Progress - year 2

R. degronianum ssp. yak 'Exbury' X
R. pachysanthum RSF 78/064



good foliage even
at this early stage

Seedling Progress - year 2

ARS01#390

the precocious
ARS'01 #390



ARS01#390

The precocious ARS'01 #390



Flower bud

Growth bud(s)

Seedling Progress

(azaleas have progress too!)

~July 2/04



AR2001#74 (WEI)
arborescens X bakeri

siblings



#1



#2

**AR96-61(Alstrup)
(Janet Blair x Sham's Candy)
x unknown hyb. white/dark blotch**



**affectionately known as
'Sproeten'**



buds with very frilly edges

'Sproeten' truss



ARS92 #940 Janet Blair X Orange Marmalade



ARS'92 #608 series of siblings



ARS



ARS92-608#



ARS92-608#



ARS92-608#



ARS92-608#10

[(Big Deal x Donna Hardgrove) x
(Golden Star x Catalgla)] x *wardii*

ARS'92 #608 series of siblings



Sibling #7

ARS'92 #608 large ivory sibling

aka "Ivory Cloud"

June 20,
2004



anticipating next spring

