

Growing the lepidote Rhododendrons



- In the Wild
- From the wild to the garden
- In the garden



In the wild

What should we know before starting
a Rhododendron collection ?

Water requirement / Moist conditions

Summer rain

May to October 80% of the annual rainfall in Sichuan
December to February 5% (total \pm 1800mm)



Clouds and mist : air moisture
Cool air thanks to the altitude



Wet mist





Soil moisture
Swamp area
High air humidity

Growing on the rocks









When air moisture is constantly high Rhododendrons can grow epiphytic on trees or rocks.

Long 'dry' winter for alpine species



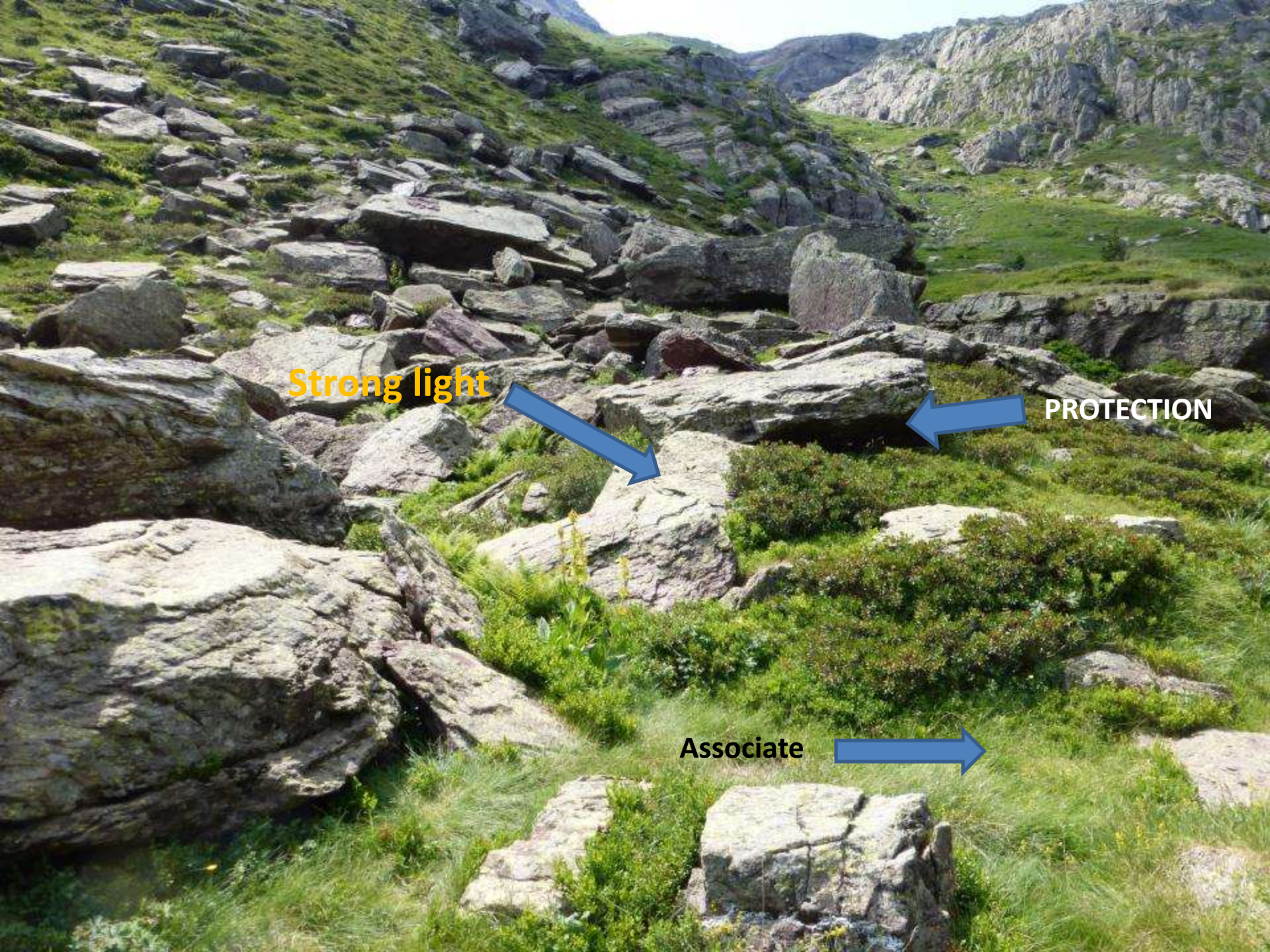
Snow starts on 13th of October and melts in April/May



Light level

Strong lights with low temperature
Draining growing medium
Exposed to wind and snow
Low level of nutrients





Strong light



PROTECTION



Associate





Very low light level

Drainage

Protection among rocks

Low temperature 3°C on 12th of October

More than 3500m







When the growing conditions are warmer
It grows in shade of trees (*Rhododendron
spinuliferum*) 2300m





Protection



PROTECTION from Wind (extra snow)

Protection given by the rocks and air moisture





PROTECTION FROM SUN IN WARMER CLIMATE

Exposed to wind and snow



Associated plants

Evergreen associates





Associate



Drainage



Growing medium / Drainage

Associate



**Humus rich medium
With gravel on rocks**

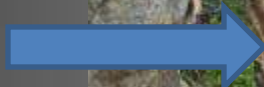




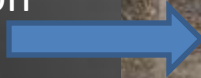
Draining medium

Growing condition

Extreme growing
conditions



Root competition



Pasture zones / human influence





Local pruners



From nature to garden

How to start a Rhododendron collection ?

Find a good nursery

Glendoick Mail Order

[Click Here for Glendoick Webshop](#)



Mail order Spring 2015 has ended. All remaining plants are available at our garden centre only. (not mail order)

Any orders placed now on the

webshop will be reserved till October 2015.

- Most plants are open ground grown and are only sent mail order when dormant: October-31st March only.
- Open ground grown rhododendrons grow away better and are easier to post.
- You can order at any time of year. Out of season plants will be reserved for the Autumn.
- Minimum mail order £50 EX Vat, post & packing (UK) £100 Europe and Japan. We do not export to North America, Australia, New Zealand.
- We cannot take orders by phone. ALL orders must be in writing on our website, by e mail, letter or fax.
- Postage and Packing UK £13 per box (ex vat) up to 30 kilos (20-25 smaller plants, 10-15 larger ones). Highlands & Islands surcharged (£15-18 per box). Europe postage £25-40 per box depending on country.

Mail order
Terms & Conditions

Glendoick

[1. Mail Order Terms and Conditions >](#)



[Catalogue Azaleas >](#)



[Catalogue Dwarf-Lepidote Rhododendrons >](#)



[Catalogue Indoor and Maddenia Rhododendrons >](#)



[Catalogue Larger Hybrid Rhododendrons >](#)



[Catalogue Perennials and Shrubs >](#)



Propagate it your self if you're patient

- Seeds : from the wild, from seed exchange, from the garden (if controlled pollination)
- Cuttings



Seeds from the wild







CHRIS CHADWELL HOME

CHRIS CHADWELL TRAVELS

Nepal 2013
Alaska 2013
Eastern Cascades 2013
Kashmir 2012
Wales 2012
UK 2015

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES BY CHRIS CHADWELL

Topics, Fees and Expenses
Speaking Engagements 2015-16
Lecture Tours in North America
Other Lectures outside the UK

CHADWELL SEEDS

What is special about Chadwell
Seeds?

Seed Catalogue and Lists

How to buy seed from 2015
Expedition to the Himalaya?

Chadwell Seeds - Catalogue and Listings

SEEDS FOR DISCERNING and ADVENTUROUS GARDENERS since 1984
Proprietor: Chris Chadwell

MY LATEST (JAN' 2015) CATALOGUE AVAILABLE NOW.

IT IS STILL A GOOD TIME TO SOW SEEDS. THOSE OFFERED IN THE CATALOGUE DO NOT HAVE ANY CHILLING REQUIREMENT; CHRIS
OFTEN SOWS SEEDS HIMSELF IN APRIL OR MAY AND GETS GOOD RESULTS, EVEN AS LATE AS EARLY JUNE. SO WHY NOT HELP
SUPPORT CHRIS' WORK BY BUYING A FEW PACKETS?

This consists of separate JAPANESE and HIMALAYAN listings

TO REQUEST COPIES, IN PDF FORMAT,

E-MAIL CHRIS CHADWELL:

chrischadwell261@btinternet.com

ITEMS INCLUDE:

Seed list 2014-15

Wild collected seeds from China

February Sale - 50% off all ephemeral seeds!

Unless otherwise noted all seeds were collected by me in China this autumn, and should hopefully germinate freely next spring. Older seeds are sold with a large discount, and although I make no guarantees, most seeds should remain fully viable.

Seeds are packed in glassine envelopes or ziplock bags labelled with the catalogue ("collection") number. Moist packed seeds come with vermiculite in ziplock bags.

If you want to see more pictures of my travels here in China, feel free to visit [my Facebook page](#).

My email for seed enquiries is: [**seeds@trillium.no**](mailto:seeds@trillium.no) - please use: **payment@trillium.no** for payments.

Bjørnar Olsen

CC 7414
RHODODENDRON TRIFLORUM
SHRUB
Borderlands Central Tibet Expedition 2013

CC 7417
RHODODENDRON LEPIDOTUM
SMALL SHRUB
Borderlands Central Tibet Expedition 2013

14096
Rhodo.
Lepidotum
WLD

#14096

Very small seeds

Clean your hands often



Drainage



Pine needles compost

Perlite

Pine bark 0/10mm



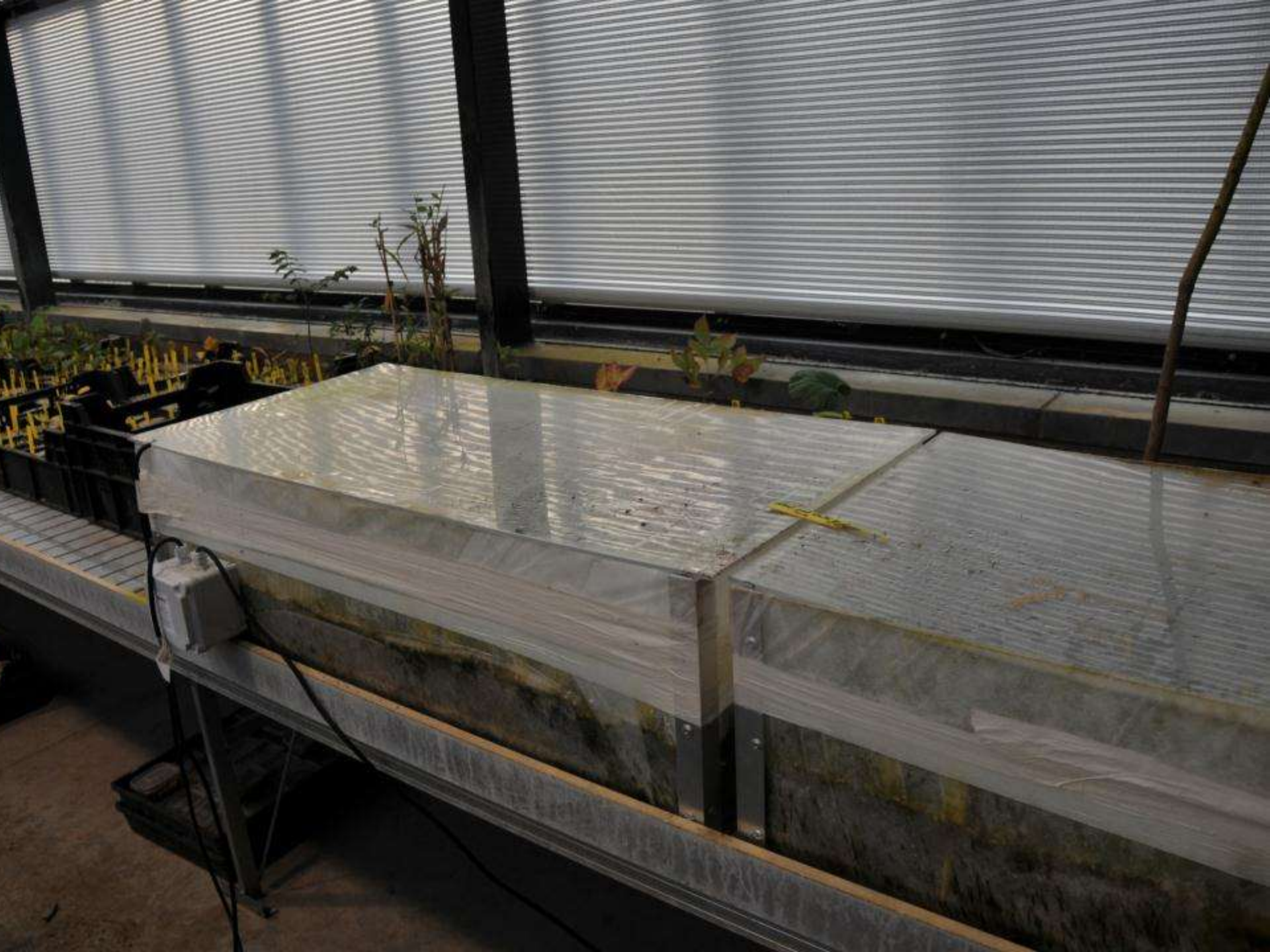




Surface sowing







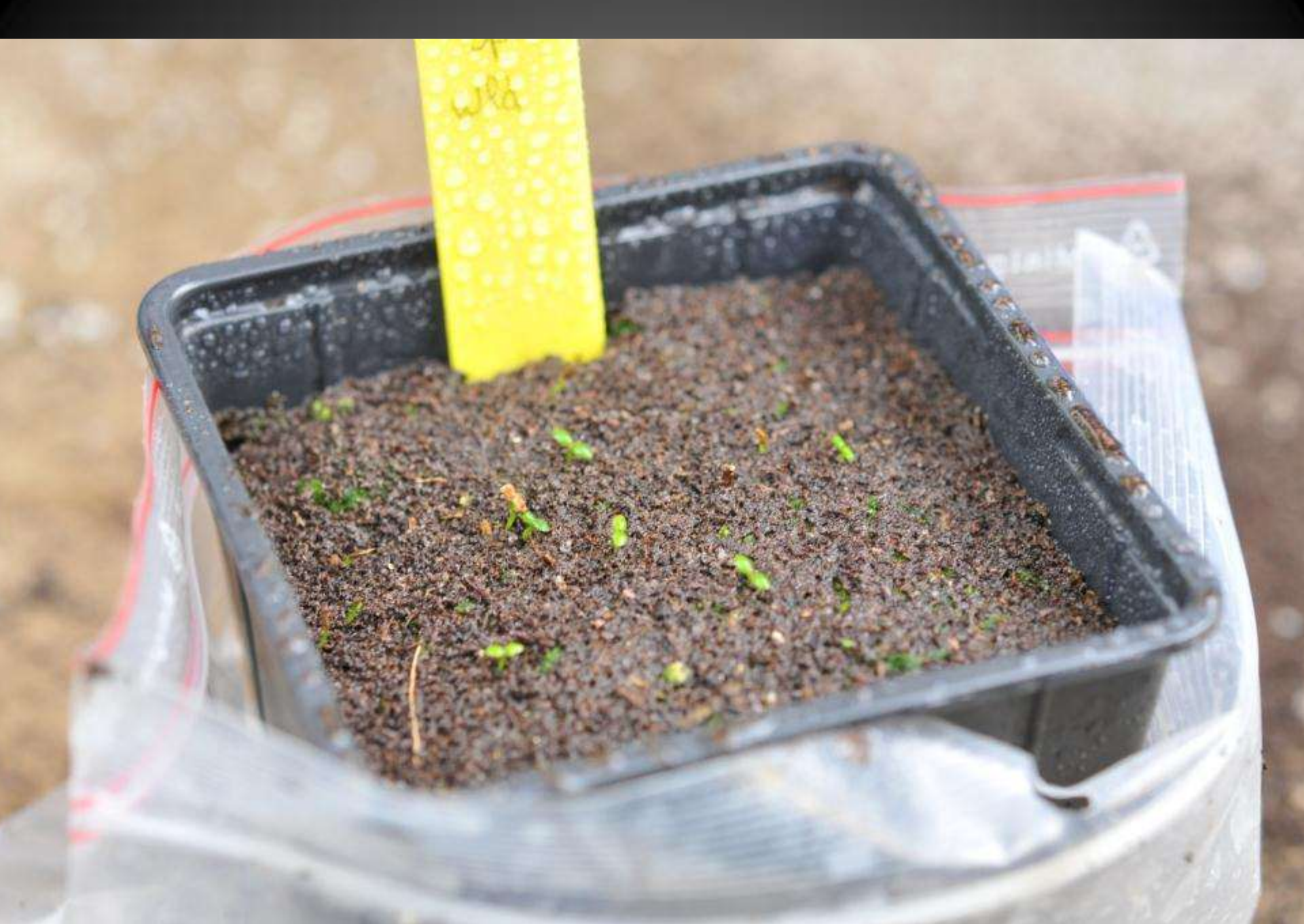
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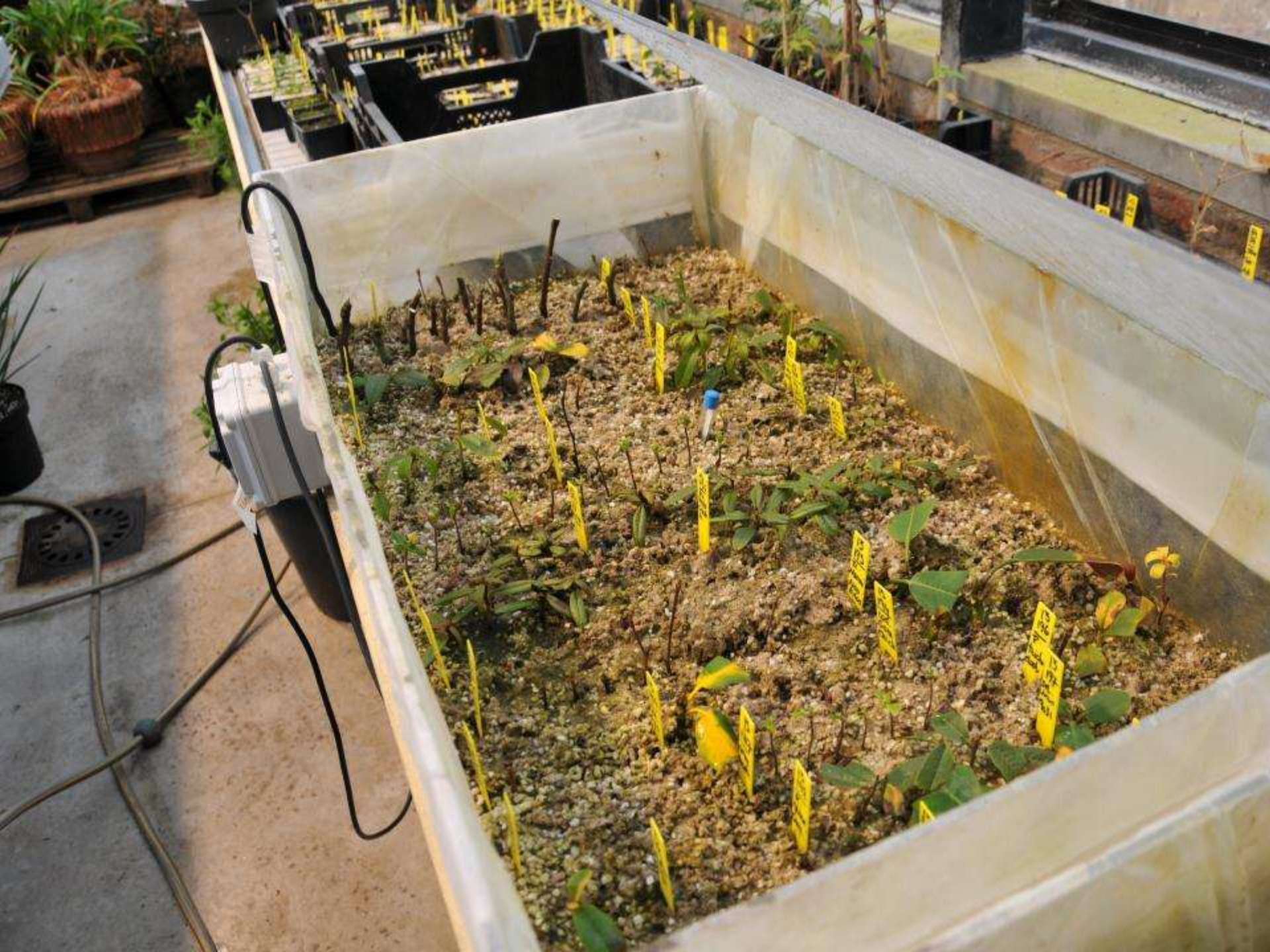




Cuttings

- Clones
- Late June
- Early July







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In the garden

- How can you recreate the right conditions to grow rhododendrons in the garden ?

- Find the right spot :
 - Water
 - Winter
 - Light
 - Protection
 - Associate
 - Growing medium
 - Growing conditions

Watering

- Will depend on the climate, the type of soil and the associated plants
 - Difficult balance to establish drainage/watering



Shallow roots





Irrigation

When should Rhododendrons be irrigated ?
Look at the herbaceous plants



Light level in the woodland

- In our 'warm Belgian' climate we have to plant most rhododendrons in partial shade.



Bring light into the woodland
(Cut the Fagus trees)



Pinus nigra ssp *laricio* ideal canopy tree for *Rhododendron* undergrowth.
good soil structure, very good light level, milder climate under the pines.



Fagus woods aren't a good place to grow Rhododendrons, too dry, too much shade



Bring shade for sun protection

Protection







Growing medium





- Acidic soil
- Draining
- Good structure : Not waterlogged

Growing conditions



Feeding

- Don't kill your plants by giving too much fertilizer, use adequate fertilizer
- Old cow manure mixed with pine needles
- Mulching is a slow feeding process and improve soil structure

Mulching

- Pine needles
 - Oak leaves
- ➔ Good soil structure



Pruning

Terminal bud pinching









Young twig pruning











Disease

- Honey fungus find the balance in the garden
- Lacebug : *Stephanitis rhododendri* or *pyrioides*
- Powdery mildew (*cinnabarinum*)





Thank you