and other ornamental trees by breaking off branches and scraping bark off the trunks. A note on dogwood borers (Volume 6, Number 2 (1991) of Plants & Garden News, Brooklyn Botanic Garden) discusses use by Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania using spiral plastic tree guards on dogwoods to reduce the antler-rubbing damage, with the negative side-effect of softening the bark and increasing the incidence of dogwood borers. The suggested ways to avoid the borers were to make sure the guards are loose, and to only use the guards in late fall and winter.


6. It’s somewhat like putting sugar on your french-fries by mistake. If you’re not hungry, you’ll probably skip them, or get some more and use salt this time. If you are hungry, you’ll get over the unexpected taste and eat them anyway.

7. We’ve tried soap, with apparently some success. Our favorite was Irish Spring, although some studies indicate all deodorant soaps have similar effectiveness. We’ve noted that something either gnaws or scratches the soap if it’s out of the wrapper, and we’ve also noted that you better tie it quite loosely or future growth can strangle the plant at the tie. We’ve also tried a repellent fence of string, with 2” by 15” strips of bedsheet at 3’ intervals, with the strips dipped periodically in diesel fuel, and we think it helped, but it sure was ugly and smelly. We’ve seen lion dung from the zoo in mesh bags being used at a conifer nursery, and we’ve recently heard of throwing “used” kitty litter around the base of plants. Unfortunately, it’s hard to know what the deer would have done without someone taking such measures.


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**R. oldhamii ‘Fourth Of July’**

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During the late 1960’s, John Patrick of Oakland, California, through his “Taiwan Venture” collected plant material of the Taiwanese Rhododendrons. In 1973, I received small plants of these rhododendrons.

Among these was a small plant of R. oldhamii. This plant originated from seed lot 68-1120 and was collected in 1968 by Dr. Hsu of Taiwan University from Mount Tai Tun at 805 meters elevation. The plant I received was a tip cutting from seedlings grown by John Patrick.

Immediately this plant caught my attention because it bloomed the first year in early July on new growth. After a few years, it became clear that this plant was a perpetual bloomer, blooming from late June until frost. This plant produces two flushes of growth containing flowers. The second flush of growth overlaps the first flush producing a plant in bloom continuously. The name ‘Fourth of July’ seemed an appropriate name for this plant.

The color of ‘Fourth of July’ is brick red. It has been distributed by the late John Rochester of Dogwood Hills Azalea Nursery nationally through his mail order nursery. The arboretum in Dallas, Texas, also grows this form of R. oldhamii with very good results.

‘Fourth of July’ seems to be hardy to about 10°F. Temperatures below this cause dieback, but the plant readily recovers and blooms profusely the summer following freeze damage. ‘Fourth of July’ seems to be resistant to lace wings, spider mites and web blight.

Robert (Buddy) Lee of Independence, Louisiana, has made many crosses using ‘Fourth of July’ to produce both early and late flowering azaleas. Preliminary results of his work look quite promising.

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