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The native plumleaf azalea Rhododendron prunifolium is typically described as being red, as shown here in a photo from Providence Canyon by Charlie Andrews. However, the color can vary year to year in the wild and in cultivation, according to him. (See a few examples of this species on p. 5, 7 of Ken Gobring’s article.) Research could yield some insights into what causes this variation and might assist breeders in developing new cultivars.