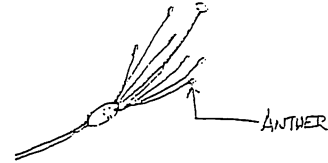


HOW TO PRESERVE & STORE POLLEN

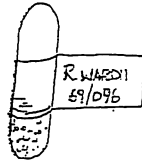
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 2525 S. 336th St Federal Way, WA 98003 PO Box 3798 Federal Way, WA 98003
253-838-4646 office (M-F) 253-661-9377 (weekends)

1. Collect fresh ripe pollen. The drying process will be quicker if you try to only collect the anthers.



2. Place the pollen in a gelatin capsule. We use size "000". These are generally hard to find and may need to be special ordered. Many drug stores, herb stores, or natural food stores order them.

3. Fill the gelatin capsules 1/4 to 1/3 full of anthers.



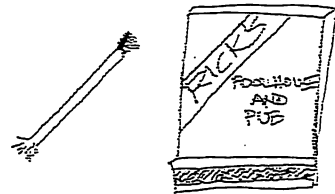
4. Mark each capsule by wrapping with tape leaving a tail to mark on. This will also keep the capsule from opening.

5. Place capsules in a "pollen drier". Place pollen drier in the refrigerator. Allow pollen to dry for 1 to 2 weeks.

6. Remove and store in an air tight container in a freezer until you need it again. We use empty film canisters. You can store pollen for two years.



7. To use the stored pollen remove from freezer and allow to thaw (about 5 to 10 minutes). Grab the capsule by the tape tail and bang firmly against the palm of your hand until the pollen is released from the anthers. The frayed end of the paper matches torn from a matchbook makes a great disposable pollen applicator.



8. Dip the frayed end of the match into the open capsule and the pollen will adhere to it.

How to make a Pollen Drier

1. Find a deep air tight plastic container.
2. Cover the bottom of the container with desiccating crystals, such as Dri-Z-Air. Cover crystals with a layer of thick cardboard.
3. Place capsules of pollen to be dried on top of cardboard.
4. Seal container.

