

## Rhododendron

<u>Rhododendron</u> is a **large genus of woody plants** comprising approximately **1,000 species**. These plants are characterised by their showy flowers that come in various colours such as **white**, **pink**, **red**, **orange**, **and purple**.

- A total of 87 species, 12 subspecies and 8 varieties of Rhododendrons recorded in the Indian Himalayan Region.
- Rhododendron arboreum is the state flower of Nagaland. The traditional belief in the state is that consuming rhododendron petals can help remove fish bones stuck in one's throat.
  - However, **rampant** <u>deforestation</u>, **habitat destruction**, **and threats** from pests have rendered many species vulnerable.



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