**Rosebay Rhododendron ‘Independence’**  
(*Rhododendron maximum*)

8-12’ multistemmed evergreen, rounded, somewhat open.

CT native, found in mountain forests and swamps.

Huge domes of clear pink flowers (see Photo 1), June to mid-July, later than most rhododendrons. Clusters have up to 25 flowers.

Long 4-8” drooping leathery dark green “donkey-ear” leaves.

Brown bark, with light ridges and furrows. Trunks often picturesque, contorted and twisted.

Sun to shade. More shade tolerant than most rhodies. Moist to moderately dry, cool acidic, well-drained organic soil. Avoid windswept, exposed or hot locations.

Use as large specimen or in groups, in shrub borders, shady locations, woods and edges of woods, in screens, along woodsy paths.

Attracts songbirds, butterflies, bumblebees. Shelter for wildlife.

Photos 1, 6  
Dawes Arboretum  
dawesarb.arboretumexplorer.org/taxon-27517.aspx  
Photo 4  
UConn Plant Database  
hort.uconn.edu/plants  
Photos, all other  
North Central Conservation District