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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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**rho·do·den·dron**  (rō'də-dĕn drən)

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*n.*

Any of numerous usually evergreen shrubs of the genus *Rhododendron* of the heath family, having clusters of variously colored, often bell-shaped flowers and widely grown as ornamentals.

[Latin, oleander, from Greek : *rhodo-*, *rhodo-* + *dendron*, tree; see **deru-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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**rhododendron**

Catawba rhododendron

*Rhododendron catawbiense*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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