



*Plant Risk Evaluator -- PRE<sup>TM</sup>  
Evaluation Report*

***Rhododendron 'Electric Lights Double Pink' --  
Minnesota***

*2017 Farm Bill PRE Project*

**PRE Score:** 0 -- Accept (low risk of invasiveness)

**Confidence:** 98 / 100

**Questions answered:** 20 of 20 -- Valid (80% or more questions answered)

**Privacy:** Public

**Status:** Completed

**Evaluation Date:** September 6, 2017

*This PDF was created on June 15, 2018*



## **Plant Evaluated**

*Rhododendron 'Electric Lights Double Pink'*



Image by University of Minnesota



## Evaluation Overview

A PRE™ screener conducted a literature review for this plant (*Rhododendron 'Electric Lights Double Pink'*) in an effort to understand the invasive history, reproductive strategies, and the impact, if any, on the region's native plants and animals. This research reflects the data available at the time this evaluation was conducted.

## Summary

*Rhododendron 'Electric Lights Double Pink'* is one of the latest cultivars to be released in the Northern Lights series of azaleas known for their cold tolerance. These cultivars are a hybrid of a Japanese species (*R. kosteranum*, which is itself a hybrid) and a North American species (*R. prinophyllum*). Neither parent species demonstrates any level of invasiveness and most, if not all, of the related cultivars in this series are sterile.

## General Information

**Status:** Completed

**Screener:** Mike Monterusso

**Evaluation Date:** September 6, 2017

## Plant Information

**Plant:** *Rhododendron 'Electric Lights Double Pink'*

## Regional Information

**Region Name:** Minnesota



## **Climate Matching Map**

To answer four of the PRE questions for a regional evaluation, a climate map with three climate data layers (Precipitation, UN EcoZones, and Plant Hardiness) is needed. These maps were built using a toolkit created in collaboration with GreenInfo Network, USDA, PlantRight, California-Invasive Plant Council, and The Information Center for the Environment at UC Davis.

Click [here](#) to see the generated climate matching map for this region. This climate match database is hosted by GreenInfo Network and publicly accessible.



## Evaluation Questions

These questions are based in an original article published at the University of California, Davis, and can be found on the PLOS One website, here: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0121053>

### Invasive History and Climate Matching (Questions 1 - 6)

#### 1. Has the species (or cultivar or variety, if applicable; applies to subsequent "species" questions) become naturalized where it is not native?

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

#### Answer / Justification:

R. 'Electric Lights Double Pink' has not naturalized. Neither of the parent species have naturalized either.

#### Reference(s):

- United States Department of Agriculture (2017). Plants Profile for Rhododendron prinophyllum (early azalea).
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#### 2. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being naturalized in the US or world in a similar climate?

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

#### Answer / Justification:

No evidence found.

#### Reference(s):

- [Anonymous] .



### 3. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being invasive in the U.S. or world?

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

#### Answer / Justification:

No evidence found.

#### Reference(s):

- [Anonymous] .
- 

### 4. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being invasive in the US or world in a similar climate?

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

#### Answer / Justification:

No evidence found.

#### Reference(s):

- [Anonymous] .
- 

### 5. Are other species of the same genus (or closely related genera) invasive in a similar climate?

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.



**Answer / Justification:**

Rhododendron ponticum is invasive in Europe, but not in a climate matching Minnesota.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**6. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) found predominately in a climate matching the region of concern?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
- 

**Impact on Native Plants and Animals (Questions 7 - 10)**

**7. Does this plant displace native plants and dominate (overtop or smother) the plant community in areas where it has established?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.



**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
- 

**8. Is the plant noted as promoting fire and/or changing fire regimes?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**9. Is the plant a health risk to humans or animals/fish? Has the species been noted as impacting grazing systems?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
-



**10. Does the plant produce impenetrable thickets, blocking or slowing movement of animals, livestock, or humans?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**Reproductive Strategies (Questions 11 - 17)**

**11. Does this species (or cultivar or variety) reproduce and spread vegetatively?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**12. If naturally detached fragments from this plant are capable of producing new plants, is this a common method of reproduction for the plant?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.



**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**13. Does the species (or cultivar or variety) commonly produce viable seed?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

This series of cultivars is sterile.

**Reference(s):**

- The Morton Arboretum (2017). Azalea 'Northern Lights' series - The Morton Arboretum.
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**14. Does this plant produce copious viable seeds each year (> 1000)?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

This series of cultivars is sterile.

**Reference(s):**

- The Morton Arboretum (2017). Azalea 'Northern Lights' series - The Morton Arboretum.
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**15. Is there significant germination (>25%) of seeds the next growing season, with no requirement of an infrequent environmental condition for seeds to germinate (i.e. fire) or long dormancy period?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

This series of cultivars is sterile.

**Reference(s):**

- The Morton Arboretum (2017). Azalea 'Northern Lights' series - The Morton Arboretum.
- 

**16. Does this plant produce viable seed within the first three years (for an herbaceous species) to five years (for a woody species) after germination?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**17. Does this plant continuously produce seed for >3 months each year or does seed production occur more than once a year?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**Dispersal (Questions 18 - 20)**

**18. Are the plant's propagules frequently dispersed long distance (>100 m) by mammals or birds or via domestic animals?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeners* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**19. Are the plant's propagules frequently dispersed long distance (>100 m) by wind or water?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
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**20. Are the plant's propagules frequently dispersed via contaminated seed (agriculture or wildflower packets), equipment, vehicles, boats or clothing/shoes?**

- Answer: **No**, which contributes **0** points to the total PRE score.
- The *screeener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

No evidence found.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .
- 

**Total PRE Score**

**PRE Score:** 0 -- Accept (low risk of invasiveness)

**Confidence:** 98 / 100

**Questions answered:** 20 of 20 -- Valid (80% or more questions answered)



## **PRE Score Legend**

The PRE Score is calculated by adding the point totals for each (answered) question.

< 13 : accept (low risk of invasiveness)

13 - 15 : evaluate further

> 15 : reject (high risk of invasiveness)

## **Questions Answered Legend**

It is important to answer at least 16 questions to consider a PRE Score as "valid".

>= 16 : valid (80% or more questions answered)

<= 15 : invalid (not enough questions answered)

## **Organization Ownership and Content Privacy**

**Organization:** 2017 Farm Bill PRE Project

**Content Privacy:** Public





## **Evaluation Issues**

The following section lists all public issues for this evaluation. Issues provide a way for stakeholder reviewers to communicate any concerns or suggestions they might have with the plant or evaluation. Please email [PlantRight@suscon.org](mailto:PlantRight@suscon.org) if additional action is required to resolve open issues.

There are currently no issues associated with this evaluation.



## **About PRE and this Plant Evaluation Report**

The PlantRight Plant Risk Evaluator -- PRE is an online database and platform enabling those involved in non-native, terrestrial plant production to know before they grow if a plant poses a regional invasive risk. This tool offers many benefits, and we encourage you to visit the PRE website (<https://pre.ice.ucdavis.edu>) for more information.

If you are a nursery trade association, or involved in the research, development or distribution of horticultural plants we invite you to join the PRE community. If you are a plant scientist, affiliated with a horticultural college or botanic garden, and would like to learn more about becoming a PRE Screener, please drop us an email, [PlantRight@suscon.org](mailto:PlantRight@suscon.org), requesting a PRE Account.

PRE beta funding is provided by Sustainable Conservation (<http://www.suscon.org/>) and a USDA Farm Bill grant.