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FEATURES OF THE CULTIVATION OF RHODODENDRON INDICUM (L.) SWEET IN GREENHOUSES IN THE KOLA NORTH

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High decorative qualities and the ability to winter flowering make *Rhododendron indicum* (L.) Sweet in the category of important cultures for the Far North regions. The article presents the results of studies on the study of the possibility of successful cultivation in greenhouses of the N. A. Avrorin Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden Institute, Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The conditions for growing plants in garden greenhouses and the experiment procedures, schemes of experiments are described. Questions of vegetative propagation of *Rhododendron* with the purpose of obtaining high-quality planting material are considered. The influence of three different types of substrates has been studied: local lake sand, Kovdors thermovermikulite and soil mixture on the quality of *Rhododendron* planting material with vegetative propagation by cuttings. The characteristic of substrates and the technique of their preparation for use in the experiment are given. It is shown that the vegetative method of propagation of *Rhododendron* semi-matured cuttings can be successfully used in the Arctic; the rooting of cuttings should be carried out in sand or thermovermikulite, since their use contributes to the production of an earlier and qualitative planting material. The optimal timing of *Rhododendron* cuttings in the greenhouses conditions of the Murmansk region is determined. It was revealed that irrespective of the variety, the best time for vegetative propagation of plants is spring – in March, since in this period it is possible in the greenhouses to maintain favorable temperature and light conditions for the rooting of cuttings and their further growth and development. The study of the peculiarities of the vegetative reproduction of the *Rhododendron* applied to local conditions promoted the development of a greenhouse technology for its cultivation in sheltered ground in the conditions of the Murmansk region and the introduction into the region assortment of potted plants of the tropical and subtropical flora.

Key words: *Rhododendron indicum* (L.) Sweet, vegetative reproduction, greenhouse growing, Arctic.

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