



Woodland Gardens offers a wide variety of roses.

Nurseries reporting high sales this year

by ANDREA McNICHOLAS
for The Outlook

Steve Mattox of Steve's Garden Center in Gresham has his own theory.

"Gardening is very restful," he says. "If credit managers, tax collectors and others in stressful occupations would spend a half-hour a night taking out their anger and frustrations on their gardens, they would probably put the ulcer doctors out of business."

Sales are doing very well in shrubbery for spring. This includes flowering, fruit and shade trees, azaleas, low shrubs as heather, juniper, mugho pine and roses.

"People are beginning to realize that roses are not as much care as they thought," says Mary Redfield of Woodland Gardens Nursery. "They bloom from May to the end of September."

There is a large selection of Jackson & Perkins roses this spring. According to Judy Gross of Drake's 7 Dees Nursery, Jackson & Perkins roses bloom often. "You get your money's worth," she says.

"In bad economic times, people tend to stay home more," says Mattox. "They spend more time and effort making their houses and gardens look pretty."

"Backyard gardening is less of a fad and more of a rule in East County," he adds. "This is a good early growing year. All supplies are available, although there is a 10-20 percent price increase from last year."

Here is a gardening tips check-list provided by Drakes 7 Dees.

1. Clean up flower beds. Work in organic materials for spring planting. Start baiting for slugs.
2. Fertilize roses if you missed it in February.
3. If your lawn is in disrepair, this is the time to work it over. Thatching and aeration can be done. Don't use Feed & Weed; it's too early.
4. Rhododendrons, evergreens and trees can be fed.
5. Now is the time to plant perennial vegetables like asparagus, comfrey, rhubarb and horseradish. Start seeds of beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, spinach and colecrops.
6. Start bringing fuchsias and geraniums out of dormancy with more light, water and 20-20-20 fertilizer. Prune back to encourage new growth.
7. You can work your garden if we get a dry spell; remember, however, one can do more damage than good if the soil is too wet.
8. Ground covers such as ivy, ajuga, vinca and St. John's wort will get a good start before summer if planted now.
9. It's too late to do any more major pruning since the winter weather was so mild. You can, however, remove suckers and thin your trees a little.
10. There is one last chance to get your dormant spray on before buds open up; but you had better hurry!

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