THE ROSE...
THE PERFECT FLOWER FOR VALENTINE’S DAY

For centuries, roses have inspired love and brought beauty to those who have received them. The rose’s rich heritage dates back thousands of years. For the past 30 years and counting, June has been National Rose Month in the United States. The rose is a symbol of times. In fact, it’s the official National Floral Emblem of the United States. The world’s oldest living rose is thought to be 1000 years old. Today it continues to flourish on the wall of the Hildesheim Cathedral of Germany. The largest living rose bush in the world is in Tombstone, Arizona. This Lady Banks Rose, will celebrate her 125th blooming season in April, 2010. The unbelievable spread of branches and blooms is supported by pipes and posts and covers an area of over 8,000 square feet. The trunk of the tree is approximately 12 feet in circumference. The Rose Tree is Tombstone's most famous 'Shady Lady'. She was planted in Tombstone in 1885 and unlike the various gun-fighters who stayed a short time and went on their way, she has remained, growing more beautiful with the passing years.

Valentine's Day is the number one holiday for florists. The number of roses produced for Valentine's Day in 2005 was 180 million stems. California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

Here are a few tips to make your bouquet of flowers last longer.

- If your roses arrived in plastic water tubes, remove them before arranging.
- Remove any leaves that will be under water, taking care not to cut through or scrape the green bark.
- Recut stems by removing 1-2 inches with a sharp knife.
- Immediately after cutting, place flowers in a clean, deep vase of water containing a flower food provided by your florist.
- Check the flower food solution daily and make sure to keep it full, clean, and fresh. If the solution becomes cloudy, replace it entirely.
- Keep your flowers in a cool place, out of direct sun and drafts.
2010 All America Rose Selection
‘Easy Does It’

Delectable colors of mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot bounce off the mirrored glossy green leaves, providing a flamboyant fruit salad for the landscape. Her free-flowing swirling shades of sunset show up in fragrant large colorful clusters atop a rounded bushy plant. So disease resistant, vigorous, flowerful & fabulous, you just can’t say ‘no’ to this seductress of the garden. The one & only AARS award winner granted for 2010…it’s distinctively delightful.

Class: Floribunda
Growth Habit: Medium/rounded & bushy
Disease Resistance: Excellent
Hardiness: Perfect in every climate
Flower Color: Mango, peach & apricot blend
Flower Form: Double, ruffled
Flower Size: Medium-large
Fragrance: Moderate fruity
Parentage: Queen Charlotte x Della Balfour x Baby Love
Hybridizer: Harkness New Roses
Introducer: Weeks Roses

2010 Plants of Merit®
New Additions

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<th>Annuals</th>
<th>Perennials</th>
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<tr>
<td>Celosia argentea (Plumosa Group) ‘New Look’</td>
<td>Echinacea purpurea ‘PowWow Wild Berry’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lantana camara (Landmark Series)</td>
<td>Gaillardia F1 ‘Mesa Yellow’</td>
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<td>Pentas lanceolata</td>
<td>Marigold F1 Hybrid African ‘Moonsong Deep Orange’</td>
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<td>Salvia farinacea ‘Victoria Blue’</td>
<td>Zinnia F1 ‘Double Zahara Cherry’</td>
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<th>Shrubs and Vines</th>
<th>Trees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buxus ‘Green Velvet’</td>
<td>Acer saccharum ‘Bailsta’ FALL FIESTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrangea paniculata ‘Interhydia’</td>
<td>Cladrastis kentukea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedum rupestre ‘Angelina’</td>
<td>Quercus x warei ‘Long’ REGAL PRINCE</td>
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<td>Viburnum dentatum ‘Christom’</td>
<td>Taxodium distichum</td>
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<tr>
<th>Edible Ornamentals</th>
<th>Trees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beta vulgaris ‘Bull’s Blood’</td>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
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<td>Foeniculum vulgare ‘Purpureum’</td>
<td>Yellow Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccinium corymbosum ‘Bluecrop’</td>
<td>Oak</td>
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A pruning and tree-stand improvement workshop will take place Feb. 27 at the University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center (FSRC) in Linn County. “Landowners may have a valuable crop growing in their woodlands,” said Hank Stelzer, MU Extension forester. “Some work on pruning and timber stand improvement could add value to the trees.”

The idea for the workshop started when David Davis, superintendent of FSRC, realized that a four-year-old stand of walnuts needed pruning. Rather than start cutting, he saw a chance to demonstrate how to do it right. The young walnut grove will become a classroom for the Saturday afternoon workshop, Davis said.

Stelzer will start with slides on how to improve walnut stands. Mark Coggeshall, tree improvement specialist with the MU Center for Agroforestry, will show how to prune young trees to encourage quality growth. Participants can gain hands-on experience at the workshop, Davis said. About 100 young trees south of the FSRC headquarters were planted in 2005 and 2006 as part of an experiment in growing walnuts from seed.

Stelzer will lead a walk in a nearby woodland to identify native trees to be released to improve growth. Killing poor-quality trees around walnuts can improve growth and quality. “We might find walnuts, white oak, hickory or other valued trees,” Seltzer said. “We’ll look for gems worth keeping.” Clearing nearby trash trees and undergrowth will allow the tree crown to expand. Added value comes from increased nut production and improved saw log value. Stelzer recommends clearing 10 feet around the crown of a good tree on at least three sides. “If you can produce nuts while growing a 10-foot clear log, you have the best of both worlds,” he said.

Stelzer will demonstrate two methods of timber stand improvement: “Hack and squirt” and “chainsaw girdle and squirt.” In both systems, the tree bark is disrupted, then a squirt of approved herbicide is applied to the wound to prevent the tree from sprouting. When pruning young trees, the main lesson will be to select and favor only one main stem and discourage branching. A single-stem tree will grow a better saw log. Pruning should be done on young trees, before limbs reach a 2-inch diameter at the base. Pruning limbs early improves the chance of producing a valuable veneer or lumber log. The pruning tips apply to pecan as well as walnut trees, Stelzer added.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Coffee, hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. Advance registration is requested by Feb. 26 by calling 660-895-5121. FSRC is at 21262 Genoa Road, Linneus. From Missouri Highway 5, go east two miles from Linneus on Highway P to Finn Road, located on a sharp curve. Go 1 3/4 miles to Genoa Road and turn east to the office. From U.S. Highway 36, go west from Brookfield, Mo., to Highway FF, then north six miles to Genoa Road. Go west 1.5 miles to the headquarters. Signs are at the turns.

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**2009 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER HOURS**

Thanks to all of the Master Gardeners in the Northeast Region who turned in volunteer hours this year! Many of you recorded them in the online system, which is very much appreciated. If you turned in a paper copy, they were entered for you in the system. If you plan to enter them yourself in 2010, you must contact Alix Carpenter or I (whomever you turned them in to) to get the username and password we created for you. A summary of Master Gardener hours by county, were sent to your county extension office. If you would like to see the summary for your county or club, please contact me and I will email it to you.
GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Ornamentals
- Water evergreens if the soil is dry and unfrozen.
- Inspect summer bulbs in storage to be sure none are drying out. Discard any that show signs of rot.
- Winter aconite (Eranthis sp.) and snowdrops (Galanthus sp.) are hardy bulbs for shady gardens that frequently push up through snow to bloom now.
- Take geranium cuttings now. Keep the foliage dry to avoid leaf and stem diseases.
- Sow seeds of larkspur, sweet peas, Shirley poppies and snapdragons where they are to grow outdoors now. To bloom best, these plants must sprout and begin growth well before warm weather arrives.
- Seeds of slow-growing annuals like ageratum, verbena, petunias, geraniums, coleus, impatiens and salvias may be started indoors now.
- Dormant sprays can be applied to ornamental trees and shrubs now. Do this on a mild day while temperatures are above freezing.

Fruit
- Inspect fruit trees for tent caterpillar egg masses. Eggs appear as dark brown or gray collars that encircle small twigs. Destroy by pruning or scratching off with your thumbnail.
- Collect scion wood now for grafting of fruit trees later in spring. Wrap bundled scions with plastic and store them in the refrigerator.
- When pruning diseased branches, sterilize tools with a one part bleach, nine parts water solution in between cuts. Dry your tools at day’s end and rub them lightly with oil to prevent rusting.
- Begin pruning fruit trees. Start with apples and pears first. Peaches and nectarines should be pruned just before they bloom.
- Grapes and bramble fruits may be pruned now.
- Established fruit trees can be fertilized once frosts leave the ground. Use about one-half pound of 12-12-12 per tree, per year of age, up to a maximum of 10 pounds fertilizer per tree. Broadcast fertilizers over the root zone staying at least one foot from the tree trunk.

Vegetables
- Run a germination test on seeds stored from previous years to see if they will still sprout.
- Start onion seeds indoors now.
- Season extending devices such as cold frames, hot beds, cloves and floating row covers allow for an early start to the growing season.
- Sow seeds of broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and cabbage indoors now for transplanting into the garden later this spring.

Miscellaneous
- When sowing seeds indoors, use sterile soil mediums to prevent diseases. When seeds sprout, provide ample light to encourage stocky growth.
- Branches of pussy willow, quince, crabapple, forsythia, pear and flowering cherry may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in a vase of water and change the water every 4 days.
- Maple sugaring time is here! Freezing nights and mild days make the sap flow.
- “Missouri Botanical Garden”

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1: Fabius MG club meeting, 6:30 Presbyterian Church, Memphis.
February 2: Heartland MG meeting, 7 pm, Area Career Center in Brookfield.
February 2: Salt River MG mtg, 7 p.m., Palmyra Sesquicentennial Bldg., program—Mark Damhorst (Ohio Street Originals, Quincy): “Heart Motif Willow Trellises for Your Sweetheart.” Watch Mark bend willow and construct a Valentine heart trellis.
February 4: Greenhouse Growers’ School; Bradford Research and Extension Center, Columbia. Registration is $15/person, includes lunch, payable at door. For info: David Trinklein, 573-882-9631 or trinkleind@missouri.edu.
February 9: Magic City MG mtg, 6:30, Randolph County Extension Center, Moberly.
February 10: Putnam County Extension Night, Unionville HS.
February 16: Kirksville Area MG club meeting, 7:00 pm, Adair County Extension Center.
February 22: Macon-Shelby MG meeting; 7:00 pm, Macon County Extension Center.
February 27: MU tree workshop—see page 3.