

2004 All-America Rose Selections

Three exceptional roses have been selected to be the All-America Winners for 2004. If you are planting roses this year, you may consider choosing one for your garden.

Memorial Day

Like the holiday of the same name, Memorial Day is truly worth celebrating. Expertly

representing the most popular class of modern roses, a hybrid tea, this medium-tall, upright and bushy variety features very large, full, spiraled blooms with more than 50 petals per flower. Evolving from pointed and ovoid buds, Memorial Day's clear pink flowers are accented with a lavender wash and grow to up to 5 inches in diameter. Its long cutting stems are beautifully covered with rich green



Memorial Day

particularly for unfurling its lovely rose petals. It makes a great, easy-to-grow addition to any garden.

Day Breaker

Day Breaker is an upright, bushy floribunda with bright, multi-shade blooms in yellow, blending to pink and apricot.

foliage to accent the large blossoms.

With its classic, strong damask rose fragrance, a single Memorial Day rose can fill an entire room with sweet rose perfume. A vigorous and productive performer, Memorial Day is highly disease resistant and especially loves hot weather, par-

From pointed and shapely buds, its spiraled blooms grow to 4 inches in diameter, with 30 to 35 pedals per flower, each nestled among dark, glossy green foliage on a plant that reaches a medium height.

Day Breaker is an awakening of the senses, not only for its exquisite beauty, but also for its sharp moderate tea fragrance. Day Breaker truly earns its floribunda classification with its brilliantly colorful, long-lasting clusters of flowers in a hardy, continuous bloom.



Day Breaker




Honey Perfume

Honey Perfume

Honey Perfume is an upright and well-branched floribunda with apricot yellow blooms. Pointed, shapely buds open to reveal beautiful, four-inch blooms with petal counts of 25 to 30 nestled amongst dark green, glossy foliage that accentuates its color.

Growing to about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide, Honey Perfume exhibits a great spicy scent and very good resistance to disease, including rust and powdery mildew. (MJF)



Garden Guide

Things to do this month

Order perennial plants and bulbs now for cut flowers this summer. Particularly good choices are phlox, daisies, coreopsis, asters and lilies.

Check stored bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any that are soft or diseased.

Order gladiolus corms now for planting later in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. Locate in full sun in well-drained soil.

Branches of forsythia, pussy willow, quince, spirea and dogwood can be forced for indoor bloom. Make long, slanted cuts when collecting the branches and place the stems in a vase of water. Change the water every four days. They should bloom in about 3 weeks.

Check any vegetables you have in storage. Dispose of any that show signs of shriveling or rotting.

This year plan to grow at least one new vegetable that you have never grown before; it may be better than what you are already growing. The new dwarf varieties on the market which use less space while producing more food per square foot may be just what you are looking for.

Send off seed orders early this month to take advantage of seasonal discounts. Some companies offer bonus seeds of new varieties to early buyers.

Do not start your vegetable transplants indoors too early. Six weeks ahead of the expected planting date is early enough for the fast-growth species such as tomatoes. Eight weeks allows enough time for the slower-growing types such as peppers.

Prune fruit trees and grapes in late February or early March after the worst of the winter cold is passed but before spring growth begins.

Late February is a good time to air-layer such house plants as dracaena, dieffenbachia and rubber plant, especially if they have grown too tall and leggy.

Check all five growing factors if your house plants are not growing well. Light, temperature, nutrients, moisture and humidity must be favorable to provide good growth.

Repair and paint window boxes, lawn furniture, tools and other items in preparation for outdoor gardening and recreational use. (MJF)

Controlling Houseplant Insects

Several species of scale insects, mealybugs and whiteflies are commonly found on plants in the home. All are sap-feeding insects that can weaken plants and cause poor, stunted growth. Death of infested plants occurs only in severe cases.

Houseplant insects may create an annoyance caused by large quantities of a sweet, sticky liquid waste product called honeydew that is excreted as the insects feed. Honeydew can make a sticky, shiny mess on the plant and nearby furniture and floors.

Scale insects have a tan to brown shell-like covering or scale that protects the insect's body. Scales may be from one-sixteenth to one-fourth inch in diameter and are usually found on the stems and/or leaves. Some scales are hemispherical in shape, while others are oval and



Mealybugs

Dabbing each insect with an alcohol-soaked cotton swab is another possibility on lightly infested plants.

Sprays can be used for houseplant insect control. Success will depend upon thoroughness and persistence. Insecticide

flat. Mealybugs appear as white tangles of cotton on the leaves or stems. A common location is the slim, protective gap at the junctions of stems and leaves. White flies are tiny white insects that feed and lay their eggs on the underside of plant leaves. When an infested plant is disturbed, the tiny insects take flight and then return to the host plant.

Houseplant insects are difficult to control. There is no easy, simple, one-shot cure. One possibility is to pick off individual scales and mealybugs or gently rub the insects loose from the leaves and stems. This is a laborious task that works only on small, large-leaved plants.

sprays made just for houseplants are available at garden centers. Formulated active ingredients such as insecticidal soaps and pyrethrin are available. Insecticides must be applied thoroughly, repeatedly and persistently, weekly for a month or more, to get good control.

Granular insecticides you add to the soil of infested houseplants seem to have very limited effectiveness and their use is discouraged because of toxicity concerns. On those plants that regrow after pruning, removing the heavily infested stems and treating the remainder is a possibility. Finally, unless the plant is particularly valuable, many people find it best to throw away infested plants before the pests spread to other houseplants. (MJF)



Scale insects



White flies