

2007 All-America Rose Selections

Three exceptional roses have been selected to be the All-America Winners for 2007. If you are planting roses this year, you may consider choosing one for your garden.

Moondance

As celestial and lovely as its name implies, Moondance is a floribunda characterized by large trusses of creamy white, beautifully formed flowers contrasted by very glossy dark green foliage. Upright and well branched, it is an extremely vigorous and tall plant

with stems that are typically 14 to 18 inches long. Rose buds are pointed and oval-shaped in form leading to high-centered flowers, which open flat to about 3-inches in diameter and consist of approximately 25 petals each. Moondance has an exceptionally delightful spicy fragrance for a white floribunda. In addition, its impressive long stems can also be arranged into an elegant bouquet for displaying in the home. Moondance is highly resistant to black spot, mildew and rust.

Rainbow Knock Out

Rainbow Knock Out is a bushy and compact landscape shrub rose with short stems bearing glossy, dark green leaves. Its blooms are single-form flowers that start out as pointed buds

and appear abundantly throughout the growing season. The delicate five-petaled flowers are two inches in diameter and are a deep coral-pink color with a yellow center finishing nicely to light coral. Rainbow Knock Out will have a nice display of blooms late into the season for a lovely fall bloom and while it does not exhibit a strong fragrance, the petals emit a delicate sweetbriar scent. Suitable for container growing in small spaces, this rose is the perfect accent to any garden. It is also winter hardy to zone 4 and is fully resistant to black spot, mildew and rust.

Strike It Rich

A modern version of the classic 1950 AARS award-winner Sutter's Gold, Strike It Rich resembles its famous ancestor with strong spicy fragrance

and elegant buds of deep golden-yellow swirled with ruby red. Yet this contemporary cousin is much easier to grow because of its great disease-resistance and strong natural vigor. This true grandiflora bears loads of long-stemmed blossoms offset by very dark green leaves and unusual deep red stems.

A medium-tall upright bush, Strike It Rich boasts clusters of double and informal flowers that are up to 5-inches in diameter with approximately 30 petals each. The flowers are long-lived and retain their blend of gold, orange and red tones to the very end. The blooms are stunning in a bouquet or in the landscape.

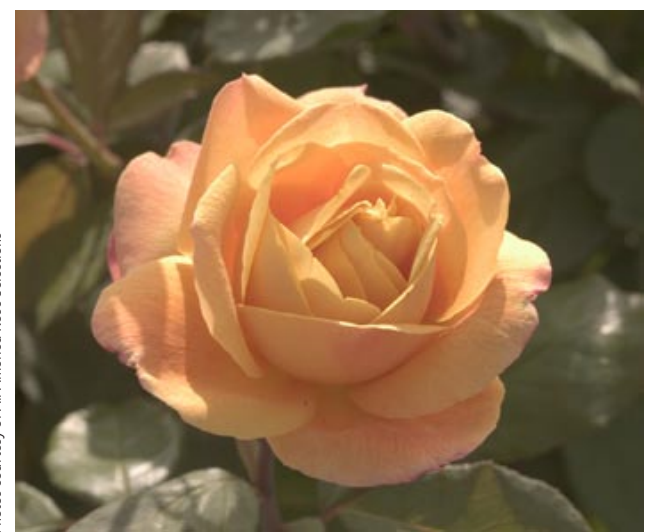
Source: All-America Rose Selections, www.rose.org



Moondance



Rainbow Knock Out



Strike It Rich

Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH
By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

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

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

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

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.

This year plan to grow at least one new vegetable 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.

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.

Beware of Misleading Tree Advertisements

Late winter often prompts the common malady, the spring planting itch," in homeowners. Attempting to break the winter monotony and satisfy the "itch," they thumb through spring nursery catalogs for garden seeds, flowers, trees and shrubs. However, homeowners need to be on their guard for advertisements with lofty promises.

Seasonal magazines and newspapers are filled with advertisements for shade and ornamental trees. Beware of those that proclaim "super trees," which usually have faults that need to be investigated before purchase.

Unsuspecting buyers often are lured by vivid descriptions of amazing growth and beauty.

Generally, these advertisements refer to the tree by scientific name only or an unfamiliar species.

Almost every year brings a new version of the "super tree." The advertisements often feature exaggerated claims such as, "the tree soars into a magnificent tree in just one single year." Prices often are exorbitant for the size and species of tree being promoted.

Two examples of such "super trees" advertised in the past are the *Ulmus pumila* and *Royal Paulownia*. It is true that both trees grow rapidly; however, *Ulmus pumila* is the scientific name for the common Siberian elm, which is non-native, short-lived, susceptible

to heavy elm leaf beetle infestations and has brittle branches that break easily in storms. *Royal Paulownia*, or *Empress Tree*, is not adapted to Nebraska's climate. It grows rapidly, but usually dies to the ground during each Nebraska winter.

To avoid falling into the "super tree" trap, learn the characteristics of trees before purchasing them to ensure they match the intended objectives. Contact a reputable nursery or local extension office before making a purchase.

Source Dennis Adams, Nebraska Forest Service

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