



GROWING PLACES

A newsletter for Phelan Gardens customers

SPRING/SUMMER 2010
www.phelanguardens.com

Shrub Roses: Carefree Hardy Flower Machines

Would you like to grow hardy roses that are practically carefree? Rose breeders have been cultivating hardy shrub roses over the last 40 years as landscape plants that are almost carefree. Fortunately for us high country dwellers in Colorado, many survive our winters and perform gloriously in our short summers, blooming almost continuously—with minimal care.

High Maintenance Roses... not for beginners

Popular Hybrid Teas and Floribundas have dominated the rose market since their introduction over 100 years ago. They tend to grow 4-5 long branches without a lot of leaves. They usually have one flower to a branch, or in the case of floribundas, multiple flowers in a cluster on the top of the branch.

This group was bred from tender roses brought over from southern China in the 1800's. Since they came from a warm, California-like climate, they have no resistance to our extremely cold winters and, more importantly, the devastating freeze/thaw cycles of Colorado Springs. Their cells retain water when the winter comes. Severe freezing bursts those cells causing severe dieback on the canes, often resulting in total loss of the rose.

Hybrid Teas CAN be grown in our climate on a Southern exposure, near the house, with a lot of mulching. BUT, it takes a tremendous amount of care to get them to survive and then flower in the summer. They require a lot of pruning, fertilizing, and spraying to maintain them. It is this group of roses that has left the impression that roses in general are very hard to grow and require a lot of care. Rosarians and avid gardeners can successfully grow these roses here in Colorado Springs. However, the average gardener who has limited time or who does not have just the right location can expect difficulty and dieback to the point that the rose may produce only one or two blooms the entire summer, if it survives at all.

Low Maintenance Shrub Roses

Shrub roses, on the other hand, are a recent and welcome innovation. Due to their easy maintenance, this group is

achieving such popularity it is surpassing the hybrid teas. How is a shrub rose defined? It is more a definition of usage rather than by description, for all roses are shrubs. David Austin, an English hybridizer started breeding shrub roses to gain hardiness and regain scent. The hybrid teas had been bred for color, and had, with few exceptions, completely lost the rose scent.

Shrub roses have the following properties:

- They grow a lot of canes, with a lot of branching
- Produce flowers almost everywhere on the canes
- They have a lot of leaves, and look very nice in the garden even when not in flower
- Tend to be 2 to 4 feet high
- Can be planted singly, or in groupings
- Will thrive in any sunny location



Shrub roses can flower three ways:

- 1) **Once flowering** (blooming once in the early Spring with a profusion of blooms that cover the plant)
- 2) **Repeat flowering** (giving a flush of blooms, resting for a few weeks in the hot summer, and then covering itself with blooms as the weather gets cooler in Sept. Then blooms until the first freeze)
- 3) **Continuous flowering** (has some blooms all summer)

Shrub roses were bred by crossing the very hardy old garden roses (roses developed before 1900) with hybrid teas. The old garden roses, developed in Greece, Rome, and Europe, came from plants in colder climates. These plants release water from their cells in the winter and send it down to the roots. They experience very little dieback, and do not need pruning except for older canes that die out in the winter. If the cane is green all the way to the tip, it isn't pruned. They do not need fertilizing more than once or twice a summer, unlike the hybrid teas that are such heavy feeders.

We cannot grow ALL shrub roses in Colorado. Some are far more hardy to our winters than others. But, fortunately, there are hardy varieties in almost every color, except blues, that do extremely well here. *(Note: The Springs is higher than Denver, and needs somewhat hardier plants to thrive here.)*

(Continued on page 2)

Hardy Landscape Cactus: Available Spring 2010!

Cacti are thought to be found in deserts of the Southwest, yet many varieties are successfully acclimating to the high plains of Colorado. Normally requiring well drained soils, many cacti, especially those zoned 5a & 5b prefer protected locations.

Where should you plant these dry loving beauties? Beyond Southwest design, consider alleyways, narrow or small spaces, non-irrigated locations, and even container gardens! We are thrilled to offer a diverse selection of unique additions for that special place!

Yuccas

Grown for their evergreen texture and beautiful spiked white flowers, yuccas typically bloom May-June

Yucca filamentosa (green 1.5" leaf)

Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard'
(green/yellow variegation)



**Yucca
Thompsoniana
'Thompson's
Yucca'**
(4-6' tall trunk
growing
multiple
heads)



Opuntias Greek word for spiny plant

Many opuntias are considered a hardy cactus. They are most noted for their flattened, segmented growth. These segments often measure 8" long x 4" across with flow-



ers emerging from the edge of the sides. One segment may have as many as 3-4 blossoms. Hardy species range in flower colors from yellow to pink shades.

Cylindropuntia (also known as Cholla) are an upright, cylinder form of Opuntia. They range in height from 3-5 feet, offering some structure to the garden. Pink flowering chollas are naturally found south of Colorado Springs while yellow blooming types are on the western slope. Bloom cycle is generally late spring. Check our availability for some fascinating types.

Echinocerus triglochidiatus

This smaller, hardy cacti is known as Claret Cup. Native to southern Colorado, this upright cylinder shaped plant grows 6-8" tall and offers an abundance of orange, scarlet flowers.



(continued from page 1)



Phelan Gardens will specialize in a large selection of shrub roses chosen for hardiness in our zone 4 climate. In 2010, we will offer:

- **Hardy shrub roses** developed in Northern Canada
- **Easy Elegance roses** developed by a Colorado grower specifically for Colorado gardens
- **Knock Out roses**—a tremendously popular shrub type that covers itself in profuse blooms all summer.
- **Climbing roses** that do well in our area. Most climbers developed from hybrid tea roses die back so much that they never achieve more than 2-3 feet of height, if they survive. Climbers developed from Northern European roses make it through the winters, and actually climb 6 to 10 feet here.
- A selection of **Old Garden roses** that are exceptionally beautiful and heavily scented. While they flower only once in the summer, they cover themselves with blooms to the extent that you can't see the plant for the roses, and

usually go for 6 weeks. The fragrance fills your garden and brings back memories of the roses our grandmothers grew. They are worth a place in the garden just for their fragrance which has been lost in so many of the modern roses.

- A nice selection of **hybrid teas and floribundas** for those that have the location and time to care for these plants.

Rose Care

The hardy roses types listed above do well in all types of landscapes as long as they have 7-8 hours of sun—hot western exposures are ideal. (*We will carry two or three exceptions that can tolerate partial shade and still flower well*). Provide deep watering once a week. Fertilize with a rose fertilizer. (*Phelan's carries some excellent rose fertilizers to help these beautiful bloomers do their best for you.*)

We hope you will make Phelan Gardens your "hardy rose" destination this year.



Fabulous New Nursery Items!

Spring is an exciting time at Phelans, and the Spring of 2010 is no exception. We will offer new plant varieties that are sure to make any garden or patio exquisite. Come by and see us for all of your trusted favorites, or add something new to herald the warmth of spring.

Bloomerang Lilac

One of the most exciting introductions and sure to be a best seller! Features the beautiful lilac color and all hardy features of current lilacs, but boasts the honor of being the only lilac to **bloom all season!**



Vanilla Strawberry Hydrangea

We have always offered a large selection of beautiful hydrangeas to add color to your garden. This year we're proud to introduce Vanilla Strawberry. It begins with a white elongated bloom that turns into a pink bloom as the season progresses. A great complement of white and pink on a single bloom.



Invincibelle Spirit Hydrangea

The first and only Annabelle type to bloom pink. Extremely hardy in our area. One dollar from each sale is donated to breast cancer research.



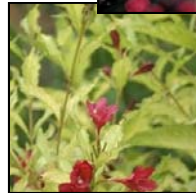
Royal Raindrops Crabapple

Crabapples are one of the most attractive blooming trees seen in our area. An exciting new arrival is here! The Royal Raindrops Crabapple hosts a panicle bloom with the same majestic crabapple pink we all enjoy seeing.



Ghost Weigela

Green leaves in the beginning of spring magically turn into a buttery yellow as the season progresses. Dark red blooms. Stands about 4 ft tall.



Taylor's sunburst
a yellow-tipped lodgepole pine.

- **Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle**

Former plant select, white blooms

- **Seven-son Flower Tree**

Blooms white in clusters of seven

- **Snow White Sensation**

Reblooming mockorange!

- **Japanese Maples**

We'll offer a few of these lacy-leaved trees. Great for newest container trends. Brilliant fall color. Tender. Shelter from wind.

Gardening Q & A

Q: I have a very small lot. What trees can I plant?

Most people are familiar with maple, oak, and ash trees...the gentle giants that grace parks and larger yards. However, there are a multitude of ornamental trees that have a much smaller spread, making them well suited to smaller yards that are so common in newer neighborhoods.

Deciduous

Fruit Trees (edible) Newport Plum
Crabapple Golden Raintree
Hawthorns Twisty baby locust
Japanese Tree lilac
Canada Red Chokecherry
Chanticleer Pear (ornamental)

Evergreens:

Skyrocket Juniper
Pinon Pine
Dwarf Blue Spruce: (Baby Blue Eyes)
Bosnian Pine
Oregon Green Pine
Big Tuna Mugo

Q: What are plant select plants?

Plant Select® is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University in connection with local green industry experts. Each year a handful of plants are chosen as "the very best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains." Though not all Plant Select® varieties are hardy to our zone, Phelan's offers many of the zone 4 varieties including:

2010—Kniphofia caulescens
2009—Agastache 'Pstessene' & Rudbeckia
2008—Clematis integrifolia & Nepeta 'Psfike'
2007—Penstemon x mexicali
2006—Penstemon rostriflorus

For a full list of Plant Select® varieties visit:
http://www.plantselect.org/photo_search.php

Have a moist area in your yard?

Plant solution #1...Bigleaf Ligularia (*Ligularia dentata*) 'Britt-Marie Crawford'

Broad, glossy, chocolate-purple leaves with a bright purple underside make a bold statement in the garden.

Golden orange, daisy-like flowers on purplish-black stem provide a bright contrast to the darker leaves, making this a nice specimen plant. Likes part to full shade and ample water.

This plant is deer resistant, attracts butterflies, is good in containers and as a cut flower.



PHELAN GARDENS
4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 574-8058

SUNSET GREENHOUSES
1023 Sunset Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 634-6232

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLO SPGS. CO
PERMIT NO. 745

Rooted in the Pikes Peak Region for over 30 years



20% Off
Tropical Plants
*Expires 3-15-10
one coupon
per customer*

15% Off
Soil Amendments
*Expires 3-30-10
One coupon per customer*



**FREE SPREADER
RENTAL**
With purchase of
any lawn fertilizer

Landscape Solutions for You!

Earth Expressions Landscape and Maintenance (*in conjunction with Phelan Gardens*) can transform your current landscape into a professional and exciting “Colorado Outdoor Living” environment complete with kitchen, water feature, lighting, patio, and fire pit!

We had a fantastic year last year in which we not only completed projects for new clients, but created additional projects for satisfied established customers. Please visit our new website at earthexpressions.biz to see project photos and a complete snapshot of our company.

Also, if you are contemplating a landscape project, please participate in **Landscape Design Day on April 3 at Phelan Gardens**. The nominal fee (\$35/person, \$45/couple) will save you hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, in headaches and aggravations as you move your outdoor sanctuary from design through construction. It would be our pleasure to serve you.

“A garden is a friend you can visit any time.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Classes held at Phelan Gardens unless otherwise noted. Class space limited. Please RSVP (719) 574-8058. **SPROUTS** in the greenhouse are Phelan's classes specifically for kids! See calendar on reverse side.*

February

Seed Starting Indoors

(February 27, 2010 1pm-2pm) Free

Learn seed starting strategies for indoors, to include herbs, annuals, vegetables, and perennial seed. This class will address timing, soil medium, heat & lighting, fertilization and transplanting methods for successful transition from indoors to outside!

March

Small Space Gardening

(March 6, 2010 1pm-2pm) Free

Small spaces may include an entryway, mailbox or outdoor living space that can come to life with the proper planting strategies. This class helps embrace small areas with vertical strategies for year round interest!

Ridding Yourself of Unwanted Critters

(March 13, 2010 1:00-2:00) Free

Claude Oleyar, Alpine Animal Control

Claude Oleyar has been helping homeowners deal with nuisance wildlife for over 20 years. This class will address strategies for rodents and snakes to woodpeckers and larger four-legged creatures!

Growing the Veggie Garden

(March 20, 2010 1:00-2:00) Free

Phelan Gardens, Monica Phelan

Monica will offer strategies for growing a vegetable garden in the Pikes Peak region. Success begins with soil, followed with plant selection, timing, and helpful micro-climates that should be considered.

March 27 Beautiful Lawns Made Easy

(March 27, 2010 1:00-2:00) Free

*Ben Dumakowski, GCSAA Superintendent,
Pine Creek Golf Course*

As the superintendent for Pine Creek Golf Course, Ben's business is turf! This class will cover proper cultural practices for maintaining healthy lawns. Time allows for answering questions for those tricky problems that homeowners may have.

April

Create Your Outdoor Sanctuary

(April 3, 2010 10:00-3:15pm)

\$35/person or \$45 per couple *Lunch Included*

Phelan Gardens/Earth Expressions Landscape and Maintenance

This day long event helps homeowners create or improve their Outdoor Living Space. Realize the value of your landscape and those upgrades that will add pleasure, value and curb appeal to your home. Topics will include:

- ◆ **Outdoor Entertaining: Kitchens, Fire Pits, Outdoor Lighting**
- ◆ **Hardscapes: Walkways, Patios, Retaining Walls**
- ◆ **Water Features**
- ◆ **Edible Landscapes**
- ◆ **Plant Selection**
- ◆ **Irrigation Solutions**
- ◆ **What's New for 2010!**

Attendees are asked to pre-register with payment. To address individual renovation goals, photos of your current landscape is recommended for review.

Fruits for Colorado

(April 10, 2010 1:00-2:00) Free

Phelan Gardens, Nan Gonzales

Groundcovers, vines, small shrubs to fruit trees, Colorado can successfully grow delicious fruit! This class will address the many possibilities, including location and strategies for the greatest yields!

Medicinal Herbs in the Garden

(April 17, 2010 1:00-2:00) Free

Mari Marque, Certified Herbalist, Owner of the Thyme Keeper

Mari will share some of the medicinal properties of common culinary type herbs including others worth considering. Mari will also address those herbs best utilized for aroma therapy.

Arbor Day Celebration (April 24 & 25)

Free Children Activity & 20% Off all Trees!!!

Arbor Day is the only holiday that celebrates not the past, but the future! Phelan's will give away a free tree to kids this weekend who play our Tree Scavenger Hunt Game (lasts approximately 15 minutes). The game will hopefully build awareness and appreciation for trees!

Class calendar continued on reverse



May

Hardy Roses for the Pikes Peak Region

(May 1 1:00-2:00) Free

Sandy Williams, Rose Grower Extraordinaire

Sandy who is both passionate and schooled in growing roses in the Pikes Peak area will share her strategies for success! Sandy will offer recommendations for those who have specific needs, such as altitude, continual bloom, low maintenance or winter color (hips).

Garden Troughs

(May 4 & May 11 6-8:00pm) \$45

Ernie Whitford, Hypa-Tuffa Expert

Create a beautiful, indestructible garden vessel that resembles ancient stone. The first class involves the construction of the vessel and the second class will complete the vessel with the introduction of alpine plants.

Container Gardening Combinations

(May 5 6:30-7:30pm) Free

Learn about the Proven Winners and other annual hot shots being recommended for container gardens! Strategies for spectacular displays include the thrillers, fillers, and the spillers! Whether it's a sun or shade location, you will learn the most exciting options for your containers!

**May 29 & 30 Memorial Day Tree Planting
Promo...Save 20% Off all Trees!!!**

June

Southern Colorado Koi Club Auction

(June 12 Koi viewing 9-12, Auction 12-5pm)

This is a member driven fundraiser happening at Phelan Gardens. For additional information, email club president Sarah Garrison at socokoi@comcast.net

Landscaping Series at Phelan Gardens

Learn building strategies and material choices for these beautiful landscape additions for your outdoor living enjoyment! All topics are presented by *Kerry Livingston, Earth Expressions Landscape and Maintenance*.

Class times are from 1:00-2:00.

- ♦ **Building Arbors and Pergolas—June 5 (Free)**
- ♦ **Building Fire Pits and Fire Bowls—June 12 (Free)**
- ♦ **Building Retaining Walls—June 19 (Free)**
- ♦ **Pavestone Walkways, Patios, and Courtyards—June 26 (Free)**

UPCOMING...

Elmohr Iris Society Sale (July 31 & August 1)

Phelan's will once again host this popular sale.

Looking for a hard to find iris variety?

Hundreds of types on sale this weekend.



Join us for kids classes!

SPROUTS

in the greenhouse

is a horticultural series designed for children ages 5-10 years. Classes are held April through December. Unless noted, class time is from 10-10:45am. Cost is \$5 per child.

RSVP is required as space is limited 574-8058.

The Amazing World of Plants! - April 10

This introductory class will offer children a greenhouse/nursery tour to help understand the differences in plants. Special focus will be given to the physical characteristics of plants to include the function of roots, stems, and leaves!

Celebrate Arbor Day with a Tree Scavenger Hunt

April 24 & 25 10-5pm both days FREE!

Phelan's will give away a free tree to kids this weekend who play our Tree Scavenger Hunt Game (lasts approximately 15 minutes). The game will hopefully build awareness and appreciation for trees!

Planting the Children's Garden—May 1

Kids will be provided seeds and veggies to plant in the Children's Garden. This hands-on class will help children understand mature height and spread of plants (spacing) and planting strategies for different veggies.

The Magic of Herbs—June 5

Children will learn about many different herbs for culinary use and aroma therapy. Each child will make a sachet of herbs for continued enjoyment.

Bugs, Butterflies, and Crawlers—July 3

This basic entomology class will have children exploring those creatures that live quietly nearby. A walk through the nursery will help children discover the beneficial insects and their habitat. Kids will take home their very own mystery creatures to observe and enjoy.

Creating with Plant Dyes—August 7

Colorful dyes will be extracted from various fruits for children to use in their own tie-dye expressions!

It's a Harvest Party—September 4

Its time to harvest veggies from the Sprouts Garden! Discussion will include putting the garden to bed for the winter. Both seed and produce will be harvested for our harvest party!

