

Think big about miniature roses

If you live in a condo or apartment where you can't garden outdoors, and you love roses, miniature roses will grow quite successfully in containers and can add a spark of color in your home and on the patio.

Roses need similar care as those grown in landscapes.

There are special fertilizers on the market, but they'll do fine if they are fertilized once a month with just a balanced fertilizer applied at half strength.

Watering is critical for these beauties. If the plants sit in water, they're going to die. The same is true if the soil dries out.

The simplest thing is to check the planting medium daily and water as necessary. Let the water run out the drain hole, and avoid getting the foliage wet. Depending on where the plants live in the house or patio will have a bearing on when to water.

A southern exposure is excellent because the plants get sun all day long. But remember: The long hours in the sun dry out the medium. If you can provide light and air circulation in a sunny window four or more consecutive hours per day, or under cool lights for 16, they'll thrive.

Prevent humidity by placing pots on saucers over wet pebbles. Check them daily so that they don't dry out. Stick your finger or a wooden dowel in the pot to see if water is necessary. It will also feel lighter in weight if water is needed.

To keep the roses standing upright, turn the pots occasionally so they will get the same amount of light.

Choose a pretty container, one that blends with the home decor. I like to see the containers in the same color, but the choice is yours. Plastic and



MARTY FIGLEY

Miniature roses have great appeal to condo and apartment dwellers.

poly containers hold water while terra cotta allows moisture to evaporate. Use a quality potting soil that drains well.

There are many miniature roses on the market now. Any good nursery should have a nice selection from which to choose.

INSECTS, PRUNING

Miniature roses have the same problems with insects and diseases that landscape roses have, although insects shouldn't be much of a problem if the plant is kept indoors. Check them and bathe the little things often. Follow the label instructions carefully.

Pruning these roses is necessary to keep them "showing." Because most of them are grafted on cuttings (which means they grow on their own roots), they must be cut back quite severely each spring.

Here's what to do: Remove the last of the long growths; cut out all dead wood. A miniature rose can die if it is pruned too much, unlike landscape roses. Don't go below the foliage line when you prune them.

These plants like to have a vacation outdoors in the summer and will need to be watched carefully for any problems. As autumn and cold nights approach, bring them indoors.

If you want longer bloom, keep them outdoors longer into fall, bring them inside daily in early evening and put them out again in the morning.

Roses in pots need a dormant period, as do large roses. Set the pots in the ground to grade level, then dig them up at spring pruning time, pot and all, and begin the cycle again.

Alternatively you can store the bush in a garage if it's not heated above 40° Fahrenheit. An enclosed porch that doesn't freeze is also fine. Occasional watering is necessary to keep soil from drying out.

Thanks to the book *Secrets of the Miniature Rose*, Elizabeth Abler, and the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association for their input.

BONSAI SHOW

The Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan will have its yearly show Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, at the Washington Square Building at Washington and Fourth in Royal Oak.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. June 14 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 15. Admission is \$3, free for under age 12.

Demonstrations will be conducted noon to 2 p.m., 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. June 14. On June 15, demonstrations will be conducted 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

This is an excellent way to spend a few hours over the weekend and enjoy the many forms of this ancient art. Members of the club who will demonstrate are experts in their craft and will be happy to answer your questions.

In addition to the wonderful and interesting displays, a raffle will take place and bonsai tools, pots and supplies will be offered for sale.

GOOD GARDEN WORD

Thorn: a sharp, woody outgrowth of a stem. Thorns are bigger and tougher than spines or prickles.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.



MARTY FIGLEY

A garden walk is a fine way to see many ideas for your garden.

Community House presents 'In the Garden With Style'

BY MARTY FIGLEY
CORRESPONDENT

The Birmingham Community House presents a two-day garden event, June 13-14, where visitors can view four newly installed "pocket" gardens.

The extravaganza begins 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 13, when participants will gather at the Community House, 380 South B'tes St., in Birmingham, to see the gardens. Professional garden designers will be present to explain their designs.

In addition, flower arrangements will be created as guests watch the beauty unfold. The talented local floral arrangers will enhance the arrangements with unique containers.

Live music will accompany the scene as guests enjoy a cash bar, and hors d'oeuvres. \$40 per person.

Saturday, June 14, is a full day of activities. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., vendors will offer unusual garden plants

and trees and many other garden related items, including twig furniture in Parking lot 7, just across from The Community House. Free admission; no reservations needed.

At 11 a.m., Catherine Whiteside, national spokesperson for Smith & Hawken, writer and author specializing in garden style, history of plants, and garden travel, will present "Orchid Delirium." Whiteside will share the history of humans and orchids and explain how to grow these plants.

In addition she will list the nine easiest and most beautiful orchid types for carefree cultivation. A continental breakfast will be served, with the garden tour included will cost \$19.

At noon to 4 p.m., the residential garden tour featuring eight outstanding gardens in Birmingham, Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Hills will be open for viewing. These gardens will feature interesting designs that are adaptable to

town gardens and backyard spaces. Maps will be available at the Community House. A lecture is included with the tour; the cost is \$19.

Note: Attend preview party, lecture and garden tour for the combined special price of \$50. Reservations are required for all these.

The Community House is an independent not-for-profit organization established in Birmingham in 1923, and welcomes all people.

It works in partnership with individuals, organizations and businesses to bring educational, social and cultural enrichment to people in the metropolitan area.

The Community House provides an exceptional facility for meetings and celebrations and is a home for classes and programs that enhance the quality of life.

For tickets or for additional information, call (248) 644-5832, or visit www.communityhouse.com

Granite Sale

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE!
1958 47 YEARS 2000
Serving Metro Detroit
for 47 Years!

Granite Countertops
Lowest Advertised
Price in the
Tri-County Area

Granite 3cm thick!

\$38.95 S/F	Amelio S. Fransisco Real
\$38.95 S/F	Verde Tunas
\$38.95 S/F	Rosa Beta
\$38.95 S/F	Luna Pearl
\$38.95 S/F	St. Venetian
\$38.95 S/F	T. Ouro
\$38.95 S/F	Juparana Ouro Brazil
\$42.95 S/F	Galio Florito
\$45.95 S/F	Verde Butterfly
\$45.95 S/F	St. Cecilia
\$45.95 S/F	Tan Brown
\$45.95 S/F	Brown Sierra Fe
\$49.95 S/F	Impala Black

All prices include installation & measurement, full business or straight polished edge 20' minimum



Silkstone!

\$29.95 S/F Installed!

Includes installation, measurements, straight polished edge, 20' minimum.

Huge Savings!!

Granite Marble Remnants

\$12.95 S/F

SOUTHFIELD LOCATION ONLY

We stock over three hundred slabs of Marble, Granite and Silkstone in over eighty unique colors. We stock the largest selection of imported ceramic tile in Michigan.

Check our prices first!

Ceramic Tile Sales Inc.
Marble & Granite Shop

Southfield
23455 Telegraph Rd.
248-366-8430

Farmington Hills
24301 Starplex Circle
(248) 426-0093

Rochester
1972 Star Batt Dr.
248-853-4654

Visit one of our Showrooms!

Wholesale and retail. Open 7 days a week. Hours: M-F 9:30-5:30; Sat 9:30-4:30; Sun 10-5:30. All prices include installation & measurement. All products are guaranteed. Delivery and installation charges extra.

SHOP WITH US. WE WILL BE YOUR BEST DEAL.

Spring Sale

Savings as easy as 1, 2 or 3



Offering 3 Ways
To Afford The Furniture You've Always Wanted!

1 Six Months
Deferred Payment

or

2 Pay Cash And Receive An
Extra 8% Discount*

or

3 We Will Pay
Your 6% Sales Tax

Save

• Formal Dining Room	• Living Room
• Bed Room	• Kitchen
• Bathroom	• Entry
• Hallway	• Staircase
• Office	• Nursery
• Bedroom	• Living Room
• Dining Room	• Kitchen
• Bathroom	• Entry
• Hallway	• Staircase
• Office	• Nursery
• Bedroom	• Living Room
• Dining Room	• Kitchen
• Bathroom	• Entry
• Hallway	• Staircase
• Office	• Nursery

Hurry...Sale Ends June 14th, 2003

**CLASSIC
INTERIORS
FURNITURE**

Visit Our
In-Store
Clearance
Center

20292 Middlebelt, Livonia (South of 8 Mile) • 248-474-6900

Visit us at www.classicint.com

Hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30; Sun. 1-5

*All discounts are off manufacturer's suggested retail prices. All previous sales included. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotional discount. *Due to the strictly low price of merchandise, cash discount cannot be used on Clearance.