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growing roses is awesome with very warm summers, really, and we get lots of snow in winter and the snow acts as an insulator."

Canton gardeners often complain about the clay soil, a soil that is a thorn in Paul's side, too, because the hard soil is tough on rose bush roots. Paul compensates by spending a lot of time preparing the soil by either digging down or raising the beds up.

"That's the key," he added. "Get a good soil and a good foundation and they will do well. Fertilizing and a good mulch is important to keep the roots cool."

With a philosophy that there are never enough roses, Paul also likes to propagate his existing plants.

"I'll buy a rose that I like and when it gets two or three years old it's mature enough that you can clip a piece off," Paul said.

He places the cutting in a moist potting mix, closes it in a Ziploc bag and lets it sit on a windowsill until it sees growth. He also adds a little root hormone on the end.

The surviving plants are ready to be placed among all the other roses in his garden. Mildew usually sets in on the ones that don't live. Out of 10 clippings that he tries to propagate, about six usually take.

Roses in bloom

While passerby in Canton

David Paul compensates for the clay by spending a lot of time preparing the soil by either digging down or raising the beds up.

love the Paul home, walkers and drivers on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills are awed by the spray of rose blooms at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, compliments of the North Farmington Garden Club.

Members have cared for the school's flowers since 1976, which is one year after the group formed. In 1989 the club was given more than 40 light pink floribunda rose bushes by Steinkopf Nursery Garden Center in Farmington Hills.

"We were asked if we wanted them and we said certainly," according to Lottie Moore, membership chairperson of the North Farmington Garden Club.

Club members were redesigning the front of the school at the time and they used the roses as the focal point of their landscape plans. Hot pink geraniums in front with purple sage and linaria are intermingled in the back to accentuate the light pink rose blooms.

About three years ago, however, about 16 rose bushes died after the school grounds were sprayed with a weed killer.

"It must have gotten on the rose bushes, because a lot of them died," Moore explained. Most people, however, don't notice the loss, because the

bushes have spread and their continual blooms give out glorious shows of color.

"We have people, when we are watering and weeding, who stop and tell us how much they appreciate our gardens and how much they appreciate our work," Moore said. "We're very proud of it."

The club also maintains plants at the Farmington Hills Library and the Five Senses garden at the Farmington Area YMCA on Farmington Road. Flowers and plants are housed in separate beds to illustrate sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Four rose bushes can be found in the gardens.

A spray of some 100 rose bushes along the front of Farmer John's Greenhouse in Farmington Hills on Haggerty just south of 12 Mile Road, have also inspired some gardeners to replicate a similar display on their properties.

Roses are prolific

Darrell Youngquest, Farmer John's nursery manager, calls the cotton candy pink Carefree Delight "the best blooming shrub rose." In fact, its flowers start in mid-spring and last until the first snow.

"People comment about them all the time," he said. "It's the only rose I will stock 200 or 300 plants at once."

He also recommends Meidiland roses, because "they are very prolific bloomers and are better to resisting diseases."

It's always good advice to do what the experts do. Steinkopf

Nursery, whose carpet roses to plant around their company sign, because they provide constant blooms and are easily maintained.

"They perform, perform, perform," said Beth Steinkopf-Liskiewicz, whose grandfather started the family business on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile Road 70 years ago.

The carpet roses come in pink, red, white and apple blossom. They flower from June through October.

"If you like masses of color and you don't want to invest in annuals every year, the flower carpet roses are great, because you plant it and it's done," Steinkopf-Liskiewicz said. "It doesn't have a lot of fertilizing or trimming demands. They're extremely drought tolerant and relatively disease free."

Steinkopf-Liskiewicz said another trend in roses for gardeners are the Old English roses, that are known for their abundant fragrance and elegant appearance for cuttings.

She also encourages customers who are interested in starting rose gardens to research the various varieties. Gardeners should decide what they want from their roses and how much time they're willing to spend in maintenance.

She recommends visiting the Tollgate Gardens, administered by the Michigan State University Extension Services, on the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook in Novi, to get an idea of what they might want to do.

"The rose gardens are well plotted and laid out," she said.

"It gives people a good idea how much space roses need, how much light they need and (help gardeners decide) which ones they like."

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Japan.

They naturalized along the beaches of the northeast and some people call them Cape Cod beach roses," Lindley said. "There are many modern hybrids that are smaller rugosas that bloom more frequently during the year."

These hybrids are very fragrant and have showy rose hips, or seed pods, in the fall that look like balls at the end of the plant and are at least the size of crab apples in red and orange hues. In fact, some novice rose growers get worried that something is wrong with their plant when they see these growths.

"We get calls from people who say, 'We're getting balls at the end of the plant, what do we do?'" Lindley said. Her answer: "Nothing, sit back and enjoy this last performance from the rose bush."

Rose hips can be added to dried flower arrangements and some people use them to make jams.

No other shrub rewards you with the bloom you get from the rose," she said. "They take a little bit of consistent care, but if you give them a few minutes each week, they'll reward you with color all through the growing season."

She also recommends that gardeners stop dead heading, or removing the spent flowers from the plant, in early August to ease the plants into dormancy and to allow the fall rose hips to appear.

With roses, contrary to everyone's belief, you do not prune them in the fall," she said.

Spring is the time to get out the shears out and trim away the dead branches. Also, landscape roses should get an extra three or four layers of mulch in the fall.

Hybrid tea roses look like florist roses and are among the most difficult to grow. They're recommended for Zone 7. Southeast Michigan, however, is in Zone 5. (A low climate zone number indicates harsher winters.) Hybrid tea roses can be grown in this area, however, they need extra winter protection.

Rose bush climbers are some of the most popular varieties sold at Great Lakes Roses.

"I think it's because other nurseries don't want to deal with them by staking and training them," Lindley said. "They have long lanky canes that need to be tied to a support."

Lindley doesn't see a trend in the use of colors for roses, but she has noticed that yellow has always been popular.

Yellow roses, however, are also more difficult to grow. They can be more prone to disease and most aren't winter hardy, because the gene that provides the yellow color is also responsible for a propensity to black spot.

"There aren't too many hardy yellow roses," she added.

A lot of people also ask for purple and blue roses. But, those colors aren't good choices for southeast Michigan, Lindley said, because they aren't winter hardy.

Lindley offers valuable tips for growing healthy rose bushes during her free lectures at Great Lakes Roses at 1 p.m. every Sunday, which end for the summer on July 15. The lectures begin again Sept. 2 and run through Oct. 14. Reservations aren't required.

For more information call Great Lakes Roses at (734) 461-1230 or visit the store's Web site at www.greatlakesroses.com.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

If you would like to announce an upcoming craft show, bazaar, or arts boutique — (Items can be sent to: Crafts Calendar, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150 or e-mail kmortson@e.homecomm.net

FOUNDERS FESTIVAL

The Farmington Founders Festival will host a juried outdoor Arts/Crafts fair to be held July 19-21 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For information call (248) 477-5837. Other activities include kids day at the park, parade, bingo, street entertainers, Art on the Grand, crafters, hospitality tent, historical tours, rides, food and a 4-mile run.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The Christmas in July Open

House will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 21 at Holy Cross Church (30650 Six Mile) in Livonia. Free admission, door prizes, hourly Kindermusik demonstrations. All your favorite consultants under one roof: Country Peddler, Discovery Toys, L'Inglisberger Baskets, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Pampered Chef, PartyLite Gifts, Princess House, Stampin' Up, Tupperware, Two Sisters Gourmet, and Usborne Books.

CRAFTERS WANTED

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