

Town Gardener

Roses must be protected over the winter

Whether your rose garden has gold medal appeal, inherent fragrance or maybe a family heirloom that's been passed down, the fact still remains, you have to protect Hybrid Teas, Grandiflora, Floribunda, Polyantha and miniature roses.

Shrub roses need little concern for overwintering. Shrub roses should be managed as a mid-summer flowering shrub, not as a tender ornamental.

Yes, I've heard many stories of forgotten floribundas and has-been hybrid teas that miraculously return in spring time. But,

alas, those stories do not end with a happy ending. A bloom here, a bloom there - I call that a no-show.

Maybe I should start a new society of concern, one which penalizes those who are cruel to plants. Well, I'm not about to do that, nor is anyone else, I hope.

What I will do is pass on some sure-fire tips that will keep you out of trouble and keep your roses performing for more than one year.

Clean all dead foliage from the soil surface and if there is any foliage hanging in there, lightly brush it off with a whisk broom or

even a pine bough. Removal of old leaves is to prevent mold or mildew attack next spring.

If your roses experienced black spot due to the extreme heat of July and August I would recommend dusting or spraying the woody canes and surrounding soil surface after clean-up but prior to mulching.

Place a rose collar round the base of the plant and fill it with mulch of either cocoa bean shells, shredded bark or my favorite mix of half wheat straw and half

composted cow manure.

Both wheat straw and cow manure contain little if any weed seeds. Substitutes can be used but expect to cultivate out more weeds next year. The reason I like 50-50 manure and straw is its ability to breath and insulate at the same time. Plus all that goodness from the manure will leach down to hungry roots.

Thoroughly water in your mulching and if it dries before freeze-up water again.

In spring you will remove the

collar, spread the mulch throughout the bed and soil conditioning has been looked after to begin yet another season of color and fragrance.

Question: Should I prune my roses in fall?

Answer: After mulching remove any exposes part of the cane for it will freeze. Actual pruning should take place after removing your rose collar in spring.

The Grapevine Hotline is 833-2117.

Area Boy Scouts annual Apple Day

Halton Hills Boy Scouts will be out in force this Friday and Saturday as the Scouting tradition of Apple Day takes place.

Boy Scouts Apple Day was inaugurated in 1934 and is the organization's main fundraising endeavour.

Scouters Dennis White and Harry Durham are the coordinators for this year's Apple Day campaign

and money raised will go towards special activities-camping trips, etc.- involving Scouts from Georgetown, Glen Williams, Hornby, Acton and Limehouse.

Aside from helping the Scouts in this fundraising activity, when you buy an apple, you are promoting your own good health.

As the cliché goes, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."



Golden anniversary

Georgetown residents Jack and Jean Layman shared their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church on Main St. in Georgetown. (Herald Photo)

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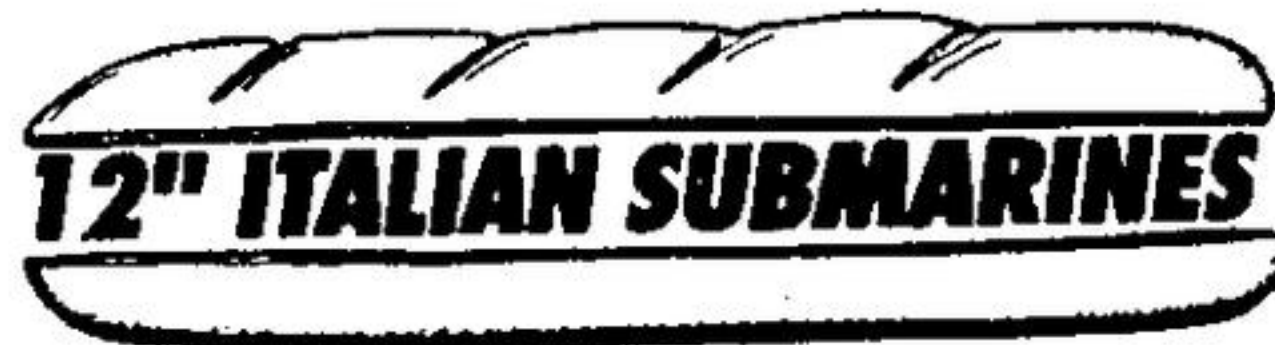
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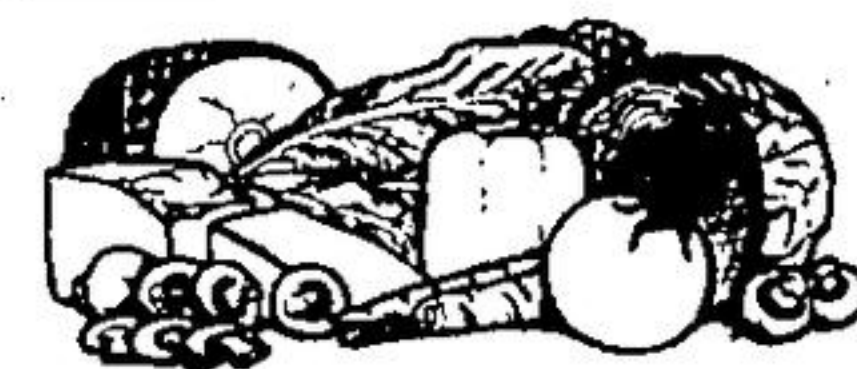
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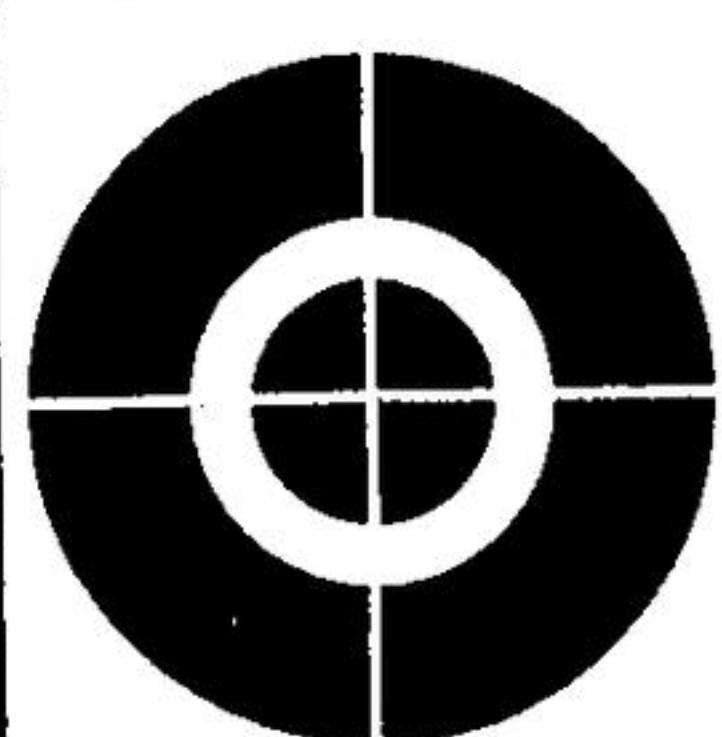


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