

THE MARKET VALUE OF A PINK PEARL

Terry Hanam

You don't need to ask a jeweler for quotes on the current market value of pink pearls, just come to Bokay Nursery and we will show you these gems! Pink Pearl is an apple variety that may sound new but is actually now considered an heirloom because it was introduced in 1944 by Californian Albert Etter.

Though the apple is a good 'shipper' and stores quite well,

it entered the market when most commercial growers were focused on a thicker-skinned, red apple that would hold up to cross-country and over-seas transportation. We are all grateful that this variety is making a tremendous come back. The greenish golden fruit is just what apples should be; sweet with a tiny bit of tart, crisp for fresh eating and they cook into a prize-winning applesauce.

The Pink Pearl apple is a landscape beauty as well with spring

blossoms that are a crimson-pink. This tree would be a great addition to your landscape as a small to medium size tree that gives a large harvest !



Surprise! Rosy interior blush lends apple its name.

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CAMELLIA CRAZE

Terry Hanam

When customers come in Bokay Nursery asking for recommendations on shrubs for around their property that are evergreen, need little in the way of trimming, spraying and fertilizer maintenance, are long lived AND bloom for a long time, there is an easy answer, Camellias! Not only are there different bloom colors, plant forms, flower types, growth habits and bloom times, Camellias are easy to care for. Remember these simple tips and your landscape plant quandary will be solved: when planting a camellia, think of how the soil is on a forest floor, soft and spongy with lots of leaf litter mulch, the ground is usually moist but not wet. These are the perfect conditions for a camellia along with being planted slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Dig planting holes that are wide and fill in around the roots



Camellias can be relied on to add long lasting color—carmine colored Yuletide (pictured above) blooms through the winter season.



Vigorous Buttermint exhibits classic rose form double petal structure. With so many different floral forms and colors, you may need to plant several camellias!

with a mixture that is at least 75% leaf mulch or peat moss. When camellias are watered, water heavily and thoroughly, just like a torrential down pour in the forest that is followed by a length of time that allows the soil to dry slightly.

If you stop in the nursery every two weeks between October and July, an ever changing display of camellias will be in bloom to choose from so you can have flowers in your landscape even when many plants have stopped blooming.

If you want to walk a primrose path, you have to plant them first! Bokay Nursery has an excellent selection of many Primulas that will keep expanding throughout these winter months! Stop in to see the latest additions.

WOULD PROTEUS LOVE PROTEAS?

Terry Hanam

We think that the Greek sea god Proteus would have liked the plants that share a similar name. Legends tell of amazing ability Proteus had of assuming many different forms and that is a fitting characteristic of the Protea and Protea related plants.

Bokay Nursery has some of the genus Protea members who's bizarre and spectacular blooms could resemble a feathery creature. Leucospermums, commonly called pincushions with plastic-feeling flower tendrils are terrestrial sea urchins and sea anemones. Leucadendron



Less is more when it comes to fertilizing Proteas.

might be the god Proteus transformed into an evergreen tree with pinecone-like buds.

The biggest problem that many

gardeners face with growing any of the protea-type plants is over-care, all of these plants desire a great degree of neglect. In pots or in the ground, place them in a sunny, protected location that has very fast draining soil (ask us how to amend your soil to drain well) and will not have annual digging and planting around their roots. It is very easy to over apply fertilizer, consider their Cape of Africa origins to realize that very little is necessary. One grower suggested sprinkling pine needles over the plant base to release a slow, acidic plant food.

Any of the Protea plants will turn heads in your garden and patio pots as much as if Proteus himself had appeared.

YES, THERE IS A SALE!

There is always something on sale at the nursery! In the winter months look for bulbs to plant. It is NOT too late to plant them, though we do want to clear them out to make way for spring seed racks and summer blooming bulbs. Buying on sale at this later time is a great way to get bargain prices on the high quality bulbs we stock and the only disadvantage is that the selection of varieties may be limited.



When you stop in at Bokay Nursery, always ask what sale items we have, they might not always be at the front areas of the nursery.

Spray What And When?

The dormant season spraying time is upon us and the subject can be confusing, especially when you cannot see any apparent insects or diseases on the plants. The dormant sprays can help eliminate over-wintering insects so that they do not emerge in spring. Similar logic applies to disease problems as well that do not become active till temperatures warm.

For those gardeners who like to avoid sprays of any sort, the first recommendation is to remove all dead foliage from the ground around dormant plant's, many insects and diseases are over-wintering in last years leaf litter.

The second subject for consideration is in regards to how much insect and disease damage you

are willing to tolerate. If you do not like the spring and summer infestations, it is much more environmentally gentle to spray in the winter as preventatives than multiple, less effective spraying in and around foliage during the growing season.

The third point to be made with spraying during the dormant season is that many of the dormant spray choices are non-synthetic, non-chemical sprays that do the least amount of harm to beneficial insects including bees.

Lime sulfur and Ultra Fine™ oil spray are two of the most popular, most effective, dormant sprays with recommend sprayings around three weeks apart beginning at Decembers end. Ask the staff at Bokay to help explain the products and safe spraying techniques.

LET THE PARADE OF ROSES BEGIN!

Terry Hanam

Every year the All American Rose Selection (AARS) announces a collection of roses that celebrate a whole new year of fantastic plants. The process is not just about a beautiful bloom, although the flowers are a very important part of the selections features, the AARS concentrates on hardiness, disease resistance, over-all form of the plant and the foliage. The flowers themselves are judged on bud form, petals, length of bloom time, repeat blooms, fragrance, consistent color and other attributes that make the flower notable.

After two years of observations at the different test sites throughout the country, the AARS makes its selections and this year they nominated some winners that are perfect for your garden. As you read the particulars of each one, you will get an idea of the range of categories that roses are chosen for this prestigious title.

Rainbow Knock-Out®

Pink petals that transcend to yellow in the center are what the flowers open up to from tight pointed buds. The plant blooms throughout the season so it has the buds and open, single flowers to enjoy all at once. The plant is a

disease resistant and cold hardy, hybridized by William Radler and introduced by Conard Pyle CO of West Grove, PA.

Strike It Rich®

was introduced by Weeks Roses of Upland, CA and hybridized by Tom Carruth. This brilliant golden-yellow grandiflora has hints of red that captures the eye but not before its fragrance draws you near. The blooms are long lived to enjoy in the garden or in a vase.

Moon Dance®

This upright and very vigorous plant will be in high demand this year as gardeners have awaited a white floribunda rose that has a noticeable scent as well. The blooms are made even more brilliant day or night by the deep, glossy green leaves. Hybridized by Keith Zary, this rose was introduced by Jackson & Perkins of Medford, OR.

Bokay Nursery has these roses, along with many of the classics that have endured the years of new introductions and kept making it onto every gardener's wish list. In 1946 the rose PEACE was an AARS winner, 1955 introduced us to the QUEEN ELIZABETH rose and 1965 brought us the enduring MR LINCOLN. The newly potted roses can be purchased now for the very best selection and availability.



Rainbow Knock-Out has bright color and good disease resistance.



Strike It Rich: Fragrance and vivid color!



Moon Dance is 2007 Floribunda of the Year

images courtesy Jackson & Perkins



The Amazing Melissa Powning

Terry Hanam

What does a nursery book keeper and the longest employed person at Bokay do in her spare time, even if it isn't on her February 14th Birthday? Being a Big

Sur personality, helping on a sheep ranch, annual volunteer at the Farm Days, kissing and caring for grandchildren, catering gourmet barbecues, traveling all over Japan, cooking, maintaining the most sought after home/resort for exchange students, being a daughter, aunt, sister, mother

of two boys, shopper extraordinaire, payroll genie, caregiver to the sick and, though omitting many of her daily touches of magic, the best friend a person could ever have. That's Melissa! Stop in to say hello to this incredible lady, even if it isn't her Birthday!