

## April is coming....

April 1 - Mother Nature provided few days of nice weather which tempted me to put down the organics around the roses, but the ground is still too cold out here. It is after all, April Fool's Day!

April 2 - Up until last year, there was never any accumulating snow in April. Then on April 14, we received 5" of snow at my house. This year, snow is in the forecast for tonight and tomorrow morning. It is unlikely to get below 32 degrees, but I still moved all the potted roses back inside the greenhouse. In a few days I will move them back outside when there is no danger of frost. Surely the snow will not accumulate again in April?

April 6 - The roses are finally starting to push out some good looking canes and it looks like the extra winter protection mulch I put down in December did it's job with only a few roses having canes that were obviously winter damaged. (Most were newer large canes that had not hardened off before the cold of late December hit.) Still, it dashed my dream of never having to mulch all the larger, mature roses in this climate like I had to do in Atlanta, since early spring super freezes were always a threat.

April 8 - Rain and cool, not cold temperatures are forecasted for the next few weeks so I moved almost all of the roses in the greenhouse outside for good (I hope). It will take about 2 weeks for them to be completely hardened off and ready to be planted by late April/early May. Also, the typical rainy and cool spring weather will keep them insect and disease free with downy mildew being the only real threat.

The Portland Nursery roses are still in the greenhouse since they are a few weeks behind the other roses in their 2 gallon pots. They are going to need the extra warmth if they are to get big enough to plant in May. Originally, I only planned on planting last year's potted fortuniana rootstock roses, which now have bud unions big enough to hold their own in the ground. But I had enough space this year to add a few of my old favorites along with a few new varieties for 2023/2024. These roses include **Clovie**, **Liz's Charm**, **Pilgrim Maid**, and **Vibrant Vonnie**.

April 10 - Roses are finally growing somewhat! But just like last year I fear many bushes won't have blooms for the Portland Rose Show. Nervous times for sure. But I am applying my late winter/early spring clean-up spray before new canes really start pushing out a lot of foliage. I applied Banner Manx, Daconil Ultrex, Floramite, Stature, and Orthene to get the ball rolling. I can apply this many chemicals because there is no real foliage to worry about getting spray damage and temperatures are cool. The only other time I apply these products together is my fall clean-up spray so my roses enter winter as clean as possible.