

FEBRUARY is for roses...and, I'm getting ready

February 10 - **Lemontini** has become very hard to find even though it is listed in local and online rose and garden dealers. But I located it at Christianson Nursery and Garden Center in Mount Vernon which is about an hour or so from Seattle and about 4 ½ hours from Vancouver...Yikes! All is not lost though since I have been planning a trip into Canada (weather permitting) to the Snow King Festival way north in Yellowknife along with the club hockey tournament in Hay River. Would I plan a trip there if there were no Northern Lights...the answer is of course no! But weather conditions will determine if I actually go when I want to. I will let you know next issue.

February 12 - My potted **Liz's Charm** has gotten powdery mildew again. Looks like this will become my new "indicator bush" for powdery mildew along with **Affirm**, **Neil Diamond** and **Sweet Mademoiselle**. Another deathly susceptible rose is **Perfume Delight** which I no longer grow. I sprayed Eagle 20W in the greenhouse to get rid of the mildew.

February 13 - 18 - A rare cool to mild and dry spell where I can do a little tinkering with my irrigation system and finish up with my "Pre-Pruning" (see article in issue 97) of any winter damaged, twiggy and dead growth, as well as 90% of my size reduction. Of course now that I have done this it will get down to around 20 degrees next week. But this could not be helped due to my recent surgery. No way I could have gotten all of the pruning done in early March like I normally would.

February 22 - Another snow day for the valley floor, further verifying my many light snow events from the winter outlook. If it accumulates at all, my roses will get a bit of extra insulation as temperatures drop near or below 20 degrees. The higher altitude neighborhoods above 1000 ft. and mountains are of course a different story. If only my 66 year-old knees and hips would let me ski and not kill myself! Who am I kidding, I would have killed myself even before my knees got bad.