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The plant sale announcements are still rolling in. Here's a few more you'll want to check out.

Kingston Garden Club's sale is Saturday May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kingston Community Center at Highway 104 and Iowa Street. They'll have perennials, annuals, ground covers, houseplants, vegetables, bulbs and other garden items. Proceeds help fund community beautification and local elementary school student garden shows.

Kitsap Rose Society is selling miniature roses at St. Luke's Church on Sheridan Road on May 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 871-6109 for more details.

Barbara Ross of Poulsbo Garden Club asked me to let you know their sale is only from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Poulsbo Library on Saturday May 11. I inadvertently added two extra hours to their sale. (Wishful thinking I guess.)

I'll try to slip in a few tips about fertilizers over the gardening season. I think a person could probably write a whole book about N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphate and potash); not to mention all the other nutrients and minerals present in soil.

Fertilizers and nutrients are essential elements for plants that grow rapidly in one season. Vegetables, annuals and profusely flowering plants (petunias, fuchsias, begonias, hanging basket and container plants) benefit from fertilizing. Plant hobbyists use fertilizers to encourage blooms for displays and competitions.

If you're growing a vegetable garden you'll want to incorporate about one to two inches of compost or other organic matter before planting. Spread the compost about two inches thick and dig it in with the existing soil to a depth of six to ten inches.

Until the Clopyralid problem many vegetable gardeners would spread a layer of composted manure (horse, chicken, rabbit, llama, donkey, steer, dairy), mix it in and let it be for about four weeks before planting. Some gardeners would incorporate manures in the fall to leach into the soil over the winter.

Organic matter is derived from the remains or a by-product of an organism. Cottonseed meal, blood meal, fish emulsion, alfalfa are all organic fertilizers. If the fertilizer components were living or breathing within the last few years then it's considered an organic substance to be used by organic gardeners. So from traditional accepted practices synthetic fertilizers are not considered "organic" by most organic gardeners because the substance was often derived from petrochemicals.

When using fertilizers remember that some can burn tender roots and shoots so it's a good idea to blend the fertilizers in several weeks before planting or broadcast the fertilizer between the rows.

Seattle Tilth's "The Maritime Northwest Garden Guide" is one of the best resources for producing great soil, growing vegetables and organic gardening practices. It's a steal at ten dollars. Binda Colebrook's "Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest" is another fantastic resource book for growing vegetables in our area. You'll actually put your "winter" vegetables in during the months of June and July for harvesting all winter long and into next spring.

Our WSU Kitsap County Master Gardener Plant Diagnostic Clinics have vegetable growing tips available five days a week at ten locations throughout the county. Stop by and ask a Master Gardener how to grow your favorite vegetable. Don't forget to watch the vegetables grow at the Raab Park Community and Youth Gardens (Caldart Street in Poulsbo) or Anna Smith Garden in Tracyton (west of the Fairgrounds). You can also stop in at the Extension Office in Port Orchard (715 Sidney) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for information.

Contact Peg with questions at ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us or write her at this newspaper