

about an inch in diameter, sells for \$40.

"A natural perfume kind of soaks into the skin, unlike a synthetic, so you have to reapply it a couple times during the day," she says.

Rose has sold a few products from her Web site, but they are slow to catch on.

"They're a bit high-priced, so people are going to be reluctant to try them," she says. "For all the work that I put into them, that's the way it is. It's an artisan product. Some people want to buy a really fine wine. Some people want to buy really fine skin care. This is the really fine skin care."

The 2-ounce blue bottles of face mist are \$20. Sample sizes sell for \$4. She makes them for oily, dry and balanced skin types.

"People in this part of the country don't know what these are. In California, New York and Florida, people know what hydrosols are," she says. "It's kind of a desert around here as far as these things go."

A fragrance consultant and hydrosol aficionado in California paid \$75 for a pint of her raspberry hydrosol, which thrilled her.

"It made me feel like somebody finally recognized the worth of these things," she says.

HER GARDEN GROWS

Out in the garden of her east Fayetteville home, she walks on a rock path through rock-bordered flower beds. The sweet violets and hellebores started coming up in late February, and others — such as honeysuckle, roses, lavender — will follow this month and next. By June, the garden will be in full bloom, and she'll spend much of her time here.

The organically grown plants are used in Rose's hydrosols. Last year, she distilled petals from a pale pink rosebush her daughter gave her for Mother's Day.

Several plants winter over in her greenhouse in pots, like rose geranium and a lemon tree.

She has already distilled about 30 different plants. Each winter, she thinks of new com-

binations.

This past season, she got into unusual ones like chocolate, vanilla, papaw and Tigger melon. She really likes the blend of chocolate and raspberry.

"To me it's more of a mood enhancer fragrance spray, but it just happens to be good for the skin," she says.

Vanilla is a comforting scent that everyone seems to like, "one of those that makes you go 'ahhh.'"

There are a few things she can't grow here, so she orders them — like cacao nibs, which she grinds and tosses into a pot of water.

"Chocolate smells awesome, but it still tones the skin," she says.

She tried the papaw fruit because its fragrance had filled her kitchen just sitting there. She wondered if she could distill it.

"So I cut it up and put it in my pot, and I got papaw hydrosol," she says.

The result was a strong astringent that could be blended with something else. Tigger melon was also "so aromatic — it was like a perfume just in itself."

"I can't imagine a plant not having a helpful property. And the fragrance just makes us feel good," she says.

Last year, Rose picked evening primrose one flower at a time, early in the morning. Then, she pulled each petal off when she put it in the pot of water. She has also made hydrosols from tuberose and ginger lilies.

"[With] a lot of these, the heat destroys the fragrance, so you have to be really, really, really careful how you do that," she says.

She has a refrigerator dedicated to her pint and quart bottles of hydrosols. She spends much of her time sterilizing jars and mixing blends for face sprays.

Though the chemistry fascinates Rose, she simply likes the result of the process.

"It's kind of neat to watch a batch run and see the steam come out and drip down and collect. My whole house just smells like whatever I'm distilling. That's a nice perk."