

The 8th International Fragrant Rose Trial in Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka, Japan

(Echigo-IFRT)

Details of the result

The International Fragrant Rose Trials is held every year by inviting applications of new fragrant roses from rose breeders not only in Japan but all around the world. All the applied nursery plants are planted and brought up for two years under exactly the same condition in the snowy and cold region of Japan. Then, examination session is held twice every spring and autumn by the Judging Committee comprising of experts of roses and fragrances to decide the award winning varieties.

The winning prizes are Gold Award, Silver Award and Bronze Award each for the specified four criteria. In addition, as special awards, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award is presented to the highest score winner among the Gold Award Winners, Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award is presented to the highest score winner in the fragrance section among the winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, and Nagaoka City Mayor's Award is presented to the most popular variety among the general guests to the park.

<<Comments from Judging Committee Members>>

Judging Committee Chairman:

Yoshihiro Ueda, Principal of Gifu International Academy of Horticulture

This year we received a record number of entries for the 8th International Fragrant Rose Trials with 74 entries in total. Every category was well represented this time with 30 hybrid tea entries, 21 floribunda entries, 18 shrub entries, and 5 entries in the miniature category.

Despite unusual weather patterns this year, including a sudden transition to high temperatures in spring, followed by a wet summer without the usual lingering summer heat, flowering progressed normally and we were able to conduct a fair and deliberate examination twice, once in spring and once in autumn. We awarded nine Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in total, a Bronze, a Silver and a Gold for each category excluding the miniature category. Judging was challenging with fierce competition between the winning entries. The winning entries all scored very highly and placings were decided by very narrow margins.

Ihatov no Kaori was the Gold Award winner in the floribunda category and also the recipient of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award. It is a very well-balanced variety with a stunning transition in color and bloom form during flowering. The Gold Award winner in the hybrid tea category, *Etienne*, scored highly for all features. It is a pleasing pink rose that blooms with neatly formed cups which open out into rosettes. *Pub Rock* was the Gold Award winner in the shrub category. It has dark pink voluminous flowers with lots of petals. It also scored highly for its fragrance. *ZENfulavender*, Silver Award winner in the floribunda category and winner of the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award, is a pale blue grey rose and was awarded the highest points for fragrance. The Nagaoka City Mayor's Award was awarded to *RT08973*, which made a favorable impression on park visitors thanks to its eye-catching gorgeous scarlet red blooms and overall prettiness.

Judging Committee Deputy Chairman:

Yuji Ichikawa, Perfumer

We received a total of 74 entries from Japan and overseas for the 8th International Fragrant Rose Trials.

Despite an unseasonably hot spring followed by a cool wet summer, this year we had the highest number of award winners, with three Gold Awards, three Silver Awards and three Bronze Awards. The fragrance quality of winning entries was high this year and there were many roses with complex scents.

The highest overall score was awarded to *Ihatov no Kaori*, the Gold Award winner in the floribunda category and winner of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award. It has a damask modern fragrance described as “a luxuriously sweet, fresh, and well balanced rose fragrance with subtle nuances of citron lemon and soft tea accents.”

Pub Rock was the Gold Award winner in the shrub category and has a blue fragrance described as “a luxurious blue rose fragrance with a harmonious blend of honey-like rose sweetness with fruity notes of fresh green apple and apricot.” *Etienne*, Gold Award winner in the hybrid tea category, has a damask modern fragrance described as being “a soft powdery scent on blooming, progressing to a fresh green scent with violet and leafy notes. When the rose has fully bloomed the fragrance becomes increasingly fruity with berry notes and a honey-like sweetness to produce the classic rose fragrance.” The floribunda variety *ZENfulavender* was awarded highest points for fragrance, as well as a Silver Award, and the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award. It has a blue fragrance. It was observed that “on blooming this rose has a fruity green scent with notes of hyacinth and green apple, then the honey-like sweetness intensifies to create a bold yet elegant blue rose fragrance.”

RT08973, which was awarded The Nagaoka City Mayor's Award, has a tea fragrance described as “a soft elegant tea rose fragrance which on blooming has a green scent with notes of fresh hyacinth married with a fruity scent with apple notes.”

Category : Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)

Gold Award

Entry No.1

Variety : ‘Etienne’

Breeder : Richard Huber AG – Switzerland

Flower : Blooms with neatly formed cups which open out into rosettes, as the petals transition from apricot pink to a light pink. Lateral buds bloom in numerous clusters.

Fragrance type : Damask Classic

A soft powdery scent on blooming, progressing to a fresh green scent with violet and leafy notes. When the rose has fully bloomed the fragrance becomes increasingly fruity with berry notes and a honey-like sweetness to produce the classic rose fragrance.



Silver Award

Entry No.4

Variety : Ihatov no Kaze

Breeder : Teizo Yoshiike – Japan

Flower : A cheerful orthodox hybrid tea variety with a well-balanced attractive bloom form and beautiful salmon pink gradation.

Fragrance type : Tea

Throughout flowering this rose has a soothing tea rose fragrance with fruity peach notes and fresh herb-like hints of geranium.



Bronze Award

Entry No.42

Variety : Space Naoko

Breeder : Eiichi Arisaka – Japan

Flower : This variety has showy giant rosettes with bright pink petals which complement the colored leaves beautifully.

Fragrance type : Tea

A gorgeous high quality tea rose fragrance with a deep green scent with violet notes on blooming, progressing to a fruity fragrance with berry notes and a honey-like sweetness.



Category : Floribunda Roses (F)

Gold Award

Special prize : Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award

Entry No.37

Variety : Ihatov no Kaori

Breeder : Teizo Yoshiike – Japan

Flower : A cuplike bloom which transitions from apricot to light pink and doesn't lose its form until the end of flowering. A floriferous variety with lovely pea green leaves that complement the flower color well. This variety flowers strongly throughout the year.

Fragrance type : Damask Modern

A luxuriously sweet, fresh, and well balanced rose fragrance with subtle nuances of citron lemon and soft tea accents.



Silver Award

Special prize : Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award

Entry No.50

Variety : ZENfulavender

Breeder : Takashi Kawai – Japan

Flower : A beautiful bewitching variety with just the right number of petals balanced perfectly with the delicate pale lavender frill which ripples the edge of the bloom.

Fragrance type : Blue

On blooming this rose has a fruity green scent with notes of hyacinth and green apple, then the honey-like sweetness intensifies to create a bold yet elegant blue rose fragrance.



Bronze Award

Entry No.26

Variety : KOR^(S) KO 06/2134-06

Breeder : W.Kordes'Söhne Rosenschulen GmbH & Co KG – Germany

Flower : A charming well balanced bright magenta rose with rose pink striping on ruffled petals, complemented by elongated leaves.

Fragrance type : Damask Classic

A finely balanced elegant and gentle rose fragrance with the sweet and sour fruity aroma of apricot blended with honey-like sweetness and leafy green notes.



Category : Shrubs(S)

Gold Award

Entry No.63

Variety : Pub Rock

Breeder : Fuminori Nukariya – Japan

Flower : A delightful round rose that holds its shape from budding through to full bloom. Its magenta pink coloring does not fade until the end of flowering.

Fragrance type : Blue

A luxurious blue rose fragrance with a harmonious blend of honey-like rose sweetness with fruity notes of fresh green apple and apricot.



Silver Award

Entry No.72

Variety : Sheherazade

Breeder : Takunori Kimura – Japan

Flower : This rose has round pink petals tinged with purple. The flower is paler towards the edges of the petals. A floriferous rose with nearly enough blooms on a single spray to make a bouquet.

Fragrance type : Damask Modern

On blooming this rose has a light powdery fragrance with iris notes which progresses to a rich rose fragrance with fruity berry notes blended with the spiciness of cloves.



Bronze Award

Entry No.67

Variety : Royal Jubilee

Breeder : David C.H. Austin – United Kingdom

Flower : A delicate mid-sized rose with a small number of petals. The thin drooping flower and stem looks lovely. The round blooms curve inwards and have pink petals with pale undersides.

Fragrance type : Damask Modern

From a harmoniously blended fruity green scent with juicy watermelon and leafy notes, this rose gradually develops into a strong sweet rose fragrance with accents of honey blended with elegant tea nuances.



Special prize

Nagaoka City Mayor's Award

Entry No.47

Category : HTs

Variety : RT08973

Breeder : Rosen Tantau – Germany

Flower : These blooms hold their shape right until the end of flowering. With its gorgeous scarlet color and large number of petals, this variety stands out even when surrounded by other roses.

Fragrance type : Tea

A soft elegant tea rose fragrance which on blooming has a green scent with notes of fresh hyacinth married with a fruity scent with apple notes.



The 8th International Fragrant Rose Trial in Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka, Japan (Echigo-IFRT)

◆ Guidelines for Applications

1. Eligibility for Applications : Breeders both professional and amateur, in Japan and overseas.
2. Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - (1) Varieties which have never been on the market, or were made available for sale on or after the first of January, 2007.
 - (2) Categories of Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - Part 1: Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)
 - Part 2: Floribunda Roses (F)
 - Part 3: Shrubs(S)
 - Part 4: Miniature Roses, Mini-floras, Patio Roses, and Polyanthas(Min)Climbers are excluded from any of the above categories.
 - (3) The Number of Entries: There is no limitation on the number of varieties the breeder can enter into the trial.
 - (4) The Number of Trees per Variety:
For each variety, four 2-to-3-year-old bare-root trees, either budded, grafted, or self-rooted.
3. Entry Fee : Free of charge

◆ The Periods of Judging: June and October, 2014

◆ Judging and Commendation:

Yoshihiro Ueda (Principal of Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)
Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)
Naoki Ishikawa (President of Niigata Rose Society)
Naoharu Watanabe (Professor at Graduate School of Science and Technology Shizuoka University)
Yuki Mikanagi (Curator of Herbarium, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba)
Kazuko Nomura (Vice President of Rose Culture Institute)
Kin-ichi Moriai (Perfumer)
Yutaka Abe (Honorary President of Saitama Rose Society)
Hideko Ishiguro (Rose researcher, Director of Ishiguro Music Academy)
Ayako Takagi (Gardening Lecturer for Japan Broadcasting Corporation)
Minobu Maekawa (Garden Designer)
Naomi Okubo (Senior Research Coordinator at National Institute of Floricultural Science, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization)
Junko Nagano (Senior Perfumer at Fragrance Creation Center, Corporate Research & Development Division, Takasago International Corporation)
Yoshinori Yamamoto (Director of Echigo Hillside National Government Park Office)

◆ Prizes: Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award for each category.

◆ Special prizes: Minister of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism Award (Top Award)

Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award

Nagaoka City Mayor's Award

◇ Exhibitors : 36 exhibitors

◇ The number of varieties : 74 Varieties (HTs-30, F-21, S-18, Min-5)

◇ Participating nation : Japan, Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Serbia, Switzerland, U.K.