

The 9th 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.

<< Prize Winner Details and Judges' Comments >>

Judging Committee Chairman:

Yoshihiro Ueda, Principal of Gifu International Academy of Horticulture

We received 68 entries in the 9th International Fragrant Rose Trials in total, with 26 Hybrid Tea entries (including Grandiflora varieties), 23 Floribunda entries, 10 Shrub entries, and 9 entries in the Miniature category. This time there were fewer Shrub entries compared with the previous trials.

This year there was a period of low rainfall and high temperatures lasting well into mid-August. However, from the second half of August an autumn rain front lingered over Japan and we experienced a prolonged period of cloudy rainy weather. Despite these tough conditions, we were able to conduct a fair and deliberate examination twice, once in spring and once in autumn. In the Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, and Shrub categories we awarded three awards per category, a bronze, a silver and a gold. We also awarded one bronze award in the Miniature category. There were ten award winners in total.

Sugar Moon was the Gold Award winner in the Hybrid Tea category and also the recipient of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award. It is a very well-balanced variety with a neat and tidy soft white bloom. It was awarded high marks for all characteristics, including fragrance, disease resistance, hardiness, and particularly vigor.

Kinuka, Gold Award winner in the Floribunda category, is a gorgeous blue rose variety with a cuplike bloom. An abundant flowerer, it scored highly for all characteristics.

Gold Award winner in the Shrub category, *Helen*, is a hardy vigorous variety with a sweet pale pink rosette bloom on a red stem.

Eternal, Silver Award winner in the Floribunda category, winner of the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award, and winner of the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award, is a cheerful blue rose with wavy petals, which scored highly for its fragrance. Its blooms complement the autumn leaves beautifully making it a favorite among park visitors and thus earning it the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award.

The sole award winner in the Miniature category, *Utsusemi*, is a variety that truly captures the essence of Japanese elegance with a stunning gradation of shades of beige on its petals as it blooms.

**Judging Committee Deputy Chairman:
Yuji Ichikawa, Perfumer**

We received a total of 68 entries from Japan and overseas for the 9th International Fragrant Rose Trials. This year the climate was particularly harsh on the trial roses with the intense heat of summer lasting well into mid-August, which was then followed by a prolonged period of cooler weather triggered by an autumn rain front. Despite these conditions, many roses scored highly and this year we saw the highest number of award winners to date, with three Gold Awards, three Silver Awards and four Bronze Awards. This included an award winner in the Miniature category for the first time in a number of years.

The highest overall score was awarded to *Sugar Moon*, the Gold Award winner in the Hybrid Tea category and winner of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award. It has a classic damask fragrance described as “a striking rose fragrance with a honey-like sweetness blended with notes of fresh lemon and the fruity aroma of juicy green apples.”

Kinuka was the Gold Award winner in the Floribunda category and has “a blue-rose fragrance typical of large flowered roses, with a peachy fruit scent combined with soft powdery tea notes and honey-like sweetness.”

Helen, Gold Award winner in the Shrub category, has a classic damask fragrance described as being “a charming well-balanced rose fragrance with the endearing fruity aroma of apple blended with fresh green notes of violet.”

The Floribunda category *Eternal* was awarded highest points for fragrance, as well as a Silver Award, the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award, and to cap it all off the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award which is chosen by popular vote by visitors to the park. It has a “luxurious blue rose fragrance with a rich fruity apricot aroma and a honey-like sweetness finely balanced with an elegant floral scent.”

Category : Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)

Gold Award

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

Entry No.18

Name : Sugar Moon

Breeder : Christian Bedard– United States

Flower : A soft white rose with touches of cream at the heart of the bloom. A tidy hybrid-tea shaped bloom with a high-centered bud.

Fragrance type : Damask Classic

A striking rose fragrance with a honey-like sweetness blended with notes of fresh lemon and the fruity scent of juicy green apples.



Silver Award

Entry No.7

Name : Claus Dalby

Breeder : Pernille and Mogens N. Olesen - Denmark

Flower : A white bloom with subtle pink highlights at the heart of the bloom. Starts flowering with a cuplike bloom which transforms into a rosette. Flowers in clusters despite being a hybrid tea.

Fragrance type : Tea

A well-balanced fine tea rose fragrance with a strong sweet floral scent and clean fresh violet notes.



Bronze Award

Entry No.5

Name : Zuihou

Breeder : Kazuzo Tagashira - Japan

Flower : A pure white flower with glimpses of magenta blotches at the center of the bloom upon flowering. Blooms in clusters so prolifically that the foliage is almost completely hidden.

Fragrance type : Damask-Classic

A fresh rose fragrance with soft powdery tea notes complemented by a distinctive blend of spice and fruity green apple scents.



Category : Floribunda Roses (F)

Gold Award

Entry No.51

Name : Kinuka

Breeder : Yuji Yasuda - Japan

Flower : A beautiful blue bloom which holds its color well. Round loose cuplike semi-double blooms with visible centers.

Fragrance type : Blue

A blue-rose fragrance typical of large flowered roses, with a peachy fruit scent combined with soft powdery tea notes and honey-like sweetness.



Silver Award

**Special prize : Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award
Nagaoka City Mayor's Award**

Entry No.53

Name : Eternal

Breeder : Hitoshi Nakashima - Japan

Flower : A cheerful blue rose that complements the autumn leaves beautifully. Blooms with wavy petals that seem to twist around the heart of the rose. Blooms in clusters, even in autumn.

Fragrance type : Blue

A luxurious blue rose fragrance with a rich fruity apricot aroma and a honey-like sweetness finely balanced with an elegant floral scent.

**Bronze Award**

Entry No.34

Name : Regina

Breeder : Hitoshi Nakashima - Japan

Flower : A showy dark pink bloom with large single flowers. Boasts a low-centered large rosette bloom with very few side buds.

Fragrance type : Damask Classic

A youthful rose fragrance with the fruity aroma of fresh green apple and apricot blended with leafy green notes.



Category : Shrubs(S)

Gold Award

Entry No.62

Name : Helen

Breeder : Takunori Kimura - Japan

Flower : A delightfully sweet pale pink rose with a beautifully well-formed rosette shaped bloom.

Fragrance type : Damask-Classic

A charming well-balanced rose fragrance with the endearing fruity aroma of apple blended with fresh green notes of violet.



Silver Award

Entry No.58

Name : Piacere

Breeder : Tamotsu Tomokage - Japan

Flower : A harmonious mix of bright orange blooms and reddish stems. As this variety blooms, the tips of the petals also become tinged with red.

Fragrance type : Tea

A rich tea rose fragrance with an exquisite tropical fruit scent and sweet vanilla notes.



Bronze Award

Entry No.61

Variety : Odysseia

Breeder : Takunori Kimura - Japan

Flower : A chic stylish bloom with rich dark red frilled petals. Produces multiple blooms in clusters.

Fragrance type : Fruity

A strong rose fragrance with a distinctive honey-like sweetness and the fresh fruity scent of green apple and pear.



Category : Miniature Roses, Mini-floras, Patio Roses, and Polyanthas (Min)

Bronze Award

Entry No.27

Variety : Utsusemi

Breeder : Takashi Kawai - Japan

Flower : This rose captures the essence of Japanese elegance with a stunning gradation of shades of beige that changes throughout flowering. Flowers strongly with rosette shaped blooms.

Fragrance type : Tea

A soothing tea rose fragrance with the soft sweetness of vanilla married with the spiciness of cloves.



The 9th 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, 2008.
 - (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, 2015

◆ Judging and Commendation:

Yoshihiro Ueda (Principal of Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)
Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)
Naoki Ishikawa (President of Niigata Rose Society)
Naoharu Watanabe (Dean, 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)
Tatsuya Yamagishi (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 : 24 breeders

◇ The number of varieties : 68 Varieties (HTs-26, F-23, S-10, Min-9)

◇ Participating nation : Japan, Denmark, France, Germany, India, U.K., U.S.A