

The 17th International Fragrant Rose Trial in Echigo Hillside Park, Nagaoka, Japan 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 (Visiting Professor, Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)

A total of 55 varieties of fragrant roses were exhibited at the 17th International Fragrant Rose Trials in Echigo Hillside Park, including 21 varieties of the Hybrid Tea (HT) strain, 17 varieties of the Floribunda (F) strain, 14 varieties of the Shrub (S) strain and 3 varieties of the Miniature (Min) strain. The large number of entries in the HT category was a distinctive feature of the event. This year, spring flowering was earlier than in normal years, but autumn flowering was delayed due to the abnormally high temperatures and prolonged lingering summer heat and dry weather in August. This year's autumn flowering was also affected by an abnormal outbreak of insect pests. Among the roses cultivated under those difficult conditions, we selected one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze winner in each of the HT, F and S categories and one Silver and one Bronze winner in the Min category. One rose selected from the S category was also awarded the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award based on a popular vote by visitors to the park.

aromu was the Gold Award winner in the S Category and also received the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) Award. This is vigorous variety which is characterized by distinctive light pink blooms and somewhat darker back petals. As blooming progresses, it changes from a closely-packed bloom to a cup-shaped bloom.

The Gold Award recipient in the HT Category, *15-16829-02*, is a variety that has light pink rosettes. With the characteristic one-stem, one-flower form of the HT strain, it is a variety with the bloom like a bouquet over the entire rose.

Amenimomakezu North Ivory, which won the Gold Award in the F category, is rosettes with a fresh creamy-yellow color that forms button eyes. This is a well-balanced variety.

The Silver Award recipient in the Min category, *Konpeito*, is a quarter-rosette flat bloom with a color that changes from pale pink to white. The entire flower of this variety has a gorgeous pom-pom blooming.

Robin in the S category was a double-prize winner, receiving both the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award and the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award. This is a flower with a round-petaled blossom that changes from apricot-colored to pale pink as the vermilion-red buds bloom. It is a variety with a strong, elegant fragrance and overflowing vitality. Its fragrance and changing colors made it a favorite with visitors to the park, and seemed to have contributed to the award of the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award.

Judging Committee Deputy Chairman : Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)

The entries exhibited at this year's 17th International Fragrant Rose Trials included a total of 55 varieties from Japan and overseas. Although 2023 was a difficult year for roses, with extreme heat approaching 40°C from summer into autumn and abnormal weather with little rainfall, it was possible to select a total of 11 prize-winning flower (3 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze) in all four categories. The fragrance categories of the award-winning flowers selected this year covered a wide range, including 3 of the Damask-Modern type, 2 Damask-Classic, 3 Tea, 1 Fruity, 1 Blue and 1 Myrrh.

The fragrance of the Gold Award winner in the Hybrid Tea category, the variety *15-16829-02*, was the Myrrh type, and was described as having “a fragrance that combines sharp notes of anise with a honey-like sweetness and the elegant aroma of high-quality black tea leaves.”

The Gold Award recipient in the Floribunda Category, *Amenimomakezu North Ivory*, had a Tea type fragrance that was described as “a combination of a gorgeous Darjeeling tea aroma and fresh lemon and violet flowers.”

The variety *aromu* won the Gold Award in the Shrub category and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award, which is presented to the highest-scoring Gold Award winner. This rose had a Damask-Modern fragrance described as “a transparent fragrance, in which the honey-like sweetness of astragalus (Chinese milk vetch) can be felt in the expansive aroma of apples and apricots.”

Robin, which not only won the Silver Award in the Shrub category, but also the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award for the highest scoring rose in the fragrance category and the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award based on the popular votes of visitors, was a “Fruity” type which was described as having “a bright, familiar fragrance of the fruits apricots, apples and oranges permeating an elegant black tea leaf aroma.”

Although no Gold Award winner was selected in the Miniature category, the fragrance of the Silver Award winner *Konpeito* was the Tea type, with “a distinctive fragrance with notes of a honey-like sweetness and clove-like spice in a soft black tea leaf aroma.”

Category : HTs, Grandifloras

Gold Award

Entry No.13

Variety : 15-16829-02

Breeder : Georges Delbard - France

Flower : Light pink rosettes. Characteristic one-stem, one-flower form of the HT type.

Fragrance type : Myrrh

Fragrance that combines sharp notes of anise with honey-like sweetness and an elegant black tea leaf aroma.



Silver Award

Entry No.9

Variety : Emphasis

Breeder : Toshio Tomiyoshi - Japan

Flower : Color changes from crimson to reddish-purple with the seasons. Blooms have peaked-petals.

Fragrance type : Damask-Modern

Strong fragrance with the sweetness of lychee, raspberry and apricot and the soft aroma of hyacinth-green in harmony.



Bronze Award

Entry No.11

Variety : Laugh Maker

Breeder : Fuminori Nukariya - Japan

Flower : Pink with a light purple tint, close-packed blooms of a large number of petals.

Fragrance type : Blue

Aromatic fragrance with honey-like sweetness and the fragrance of black tea leaves, in harmony with a fresh lemon and apple fragrance.



Category : F

Gold Award

Entry No.27

Variety : Amenimomakezu North Ivory

Breeder : Teizo Yoshiike - Japan

Flower : Creamy-yellow color, button-eye rosette bloom.

Fragrance type : Tea

Fragrance combining a gorgeous Darjeeling tea aroma and fresh lemon and violet flowers.



Silver Award

Entry No.34

Variety : Lila Tröpfchen

Breeder : W. KORDES' SÖHNE Rosenschulen GmbH & Co KG - Germany

Flower : Purple-pink color, cupped blossoms. Particularly abundant blossoms in spring.

Fragrance type : Damask-Modern

Distinctive calm fragrance of fresh young leaves and a honey-like fragrance.



Bronze Award

Entry No.26

Variety : Les Grands Buffets

Breeder : Dorieux - France

Flower : Ruffled outer petals change from apricot to light peach color at round petals. Abundant, refined rosette blooms.

Fragrance type : Tea

Fragrance with hints of young leaves and floral sweetness in a tranquil black tea leaf aroma.



Category : S

Gold Award

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

Entry No.43

Variety : aromu

Breeder : Hiroshi Mochizuki - Japan

Flower : Unique blooming with a light pink color, slightly darker back petals. Changes from close-packed bloom to cups.

Fragrance type : Damask-Modern

Transparent fragrance in which the honey-like sweetness of milk vetch can be felt in the expansive fragrance of apples and apricots.



Silver Award

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

Entry No.41

Variety : Robin

Breeder : Takunori Kimura - Japan

Flower : Color changes from apricot to light pink as the vermillion-red buds bloom. Closed-packed blooms of round petals.

Fragrance type : Fruity

Fragrance in which the bright, familiar fruit fragrance of apricots, apples and oranges permeates the elegant aroma of black tea leaves.



Bronze Award

Entry No.51

Variety : Silas Marner (Ausraveloe)

Breeder : David Austin - U.K.

Flower : Flower with thin, almost-transparent petals on a red coral-colored stem, blooms from shallow cups to rosettes.

Fragrance type : Damask-Classic

Fragrance with the softness of hyacinth-green and a gentle floral sweetness.



Category : Min

Silver Award

Entry No.55

Variety : Konpeito

Breeder : Makiko Kawamoto - Japan

Flower : Color changes from light pink to soft white. Flat quarter-rosettes that transition to clusters and the entire flower of this variety has a gorgeous pom-pom blooming.

Fragrance type : Tea

Distinctive fragrance with notes of a honey-like sweetness and clove-like spice in a soft black tea leaf aroma.



Bronze Award

Entry No.54

Variety : Zakkronu

Breeder : Hiroshi Mochizuki - Japan

Flower : Purplish-pink color. Outer petals become peaked petals as blooming progresses; flowers become rosettes when in full bloom.

Fragrance type : Damask-Classic

Fragrance with a harmonious blend of muscat and floral sweetness in a black tea leaf aroma.



The 17th 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 that have never been on the market within or outside Japan, or varieties that were first made available for sale on or after January 1, 2018.
 - (2) Categories of Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - Part 1: Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)
 - Part 2: Floribunda Roses (F) (Cluster-flowered)
 - Part 3: Shrubs(S)
 - Part 4: Miniature Roses, Mini-floras, Patio Roses, and Polyanthas(Min)Climbers are excluded from all of the above categories.
 - (3) The Number of Entries: Limited to a total of four varieties per single breeder.
 - (4) The Number of Trees per Variety: Three trees per single variety.
Note: Includes grafted rootstock up to 3-yrs old. Excludes custom shaped or trained roses such as standard roses.
3. Entry Fee : Free of charge

◆ The Periods of Judging: June and October, 2023

◆ Judging and Commendation:

Chairman: Yoshihiro Ueda (Visiting Professor, Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)
Deputy: Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)
Kokichi Komita (President of Niigata Rose Society)
Naoki Ishikawa (Honorary President of Niigata Rose Society)
Naoharu Watanabe (Professor Emeritus, Shizuoka University)
Yuki Mikanagi (Curator of Herbarium, Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba)
Hideko Ishiguro (Rose researcher, Director of Ishiguro Music Academy)
Minobu Maekawa (Garden Designer)
Naomi Okubo (Assistant leader, Materials Development Group at Institute of Vegetable and Floriculture Science, NARO)
Johji Nishio (WFRS International Judges Committee / President of Machida Rose Society)
Yushi Terazima (Perfumer)
Atsushi Joichi (Perfumer)
Toshihiko Watanabe (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

◇ Breeders : 26 breeders

◇ The number of varieties : 55 Varieties (HTs-21, F-17, S-14, Min-3)

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