

The 14th 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)

We received a total of 49 entries in the 14th International Fragrant Rose Trials, with 17 Hybrid Tea (HT) entries, 18 Floribunda (F) entries, 12 Shrub (S) entries, and 2 entries in the Miniature (Min) category. This year, after a mild winter with little snow, we experienced an unusual weather condition for the roses with an exceptionally long rainy season followed by a lingering severe summer heat. The prolonged rains softened the plants and caused scab, anthracnose, and downy mildew to appear. For roses grown under these conditions, we awarded one gold, one silver, and one bronze for each of the HT, F, and S entries, and one bronze for the Min entry. In addition, the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award was given to the one selected from the F entry by a popular vote of the park visitors.

Ninfa was the Gold Award winner in the F category and the recipient of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award. It is a magnificent and beautiful variety with large blooms that transition from a hybrid tea bloom form to a flat bloom form as the color transitions from salmon pink to white.

Vieux Rose, the Gold Award winner in the HT category, is a deep red, large-bloom, glossy-leave variety with a good balance of foliage and flowers.

Couronne Rouge (KIM-J-1294), the Gold Award winner in the S category, is a fine variety with large, ruffled petal, rosette blooms with the color transitioning from bright rich pink to pink.

With Smile in the F category, the winner of the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award, is a generous bloom variety with abundant pink blossoms achieving the highest scores in terms of fragrance intensity and quality.

MIREI in the F category, the winner of the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award, is a lavender-blue, ruffled petal, flat bloom variety. It was most popular among the park visitors most likely due to the color and gorgeousness preferred by a broad range of people.

Judging Committee Deputy Chairman : Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)

We received a total of 49 entries from Japan and overseas for the 14th International Fragrant Rose Trials. This year we experienced an unusual weather condition with no snowfall in the winter, low temperatures in the early spring, prolonged rains in the first half of the summer and lingering intense heat in the second half. In spite of that, we were blessed with relatively good weather in the fall and we were able to present a total of 10 prize-winning varieties, with three gold, three silver, and four bronze awards in four categories, which is tied for the best to date. *Ninfa* was awarded the Gold Award in the Floribunda category and the winner of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Award for the highest overall score. It has a myrrh fragrance described as “a myrrh fragrance of refreshing citrus and spice with a blend of anise characteristics”.

With Smile was awarded the Silver Award also in the Floribunda category and the winner of the Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award for the highest score in fragrance category. It has a fruity fragrance described as “a fruity fragrance of green apple with a blend of gentle floral sweetness”.

Vieux Rose, the Gold Award winner in the Hybrid Tea category, has a tea fragrance described as “a tea fragrance with clove-like spiciness and fresh fruity notes”.

Couronne Rouge (KIM-J-1294), the Gold Award winner in the Shrub category, has a modern damask fragrance described as “a gorgeous damask fragrance of fresh lemon and strong honey-like sweetness”.

This year there was no entry worthy of gold award in the Miniature category.

Finally, *MIREI* in the Floribunda category, which won the Nagaoka City Mayor's Award by popular vote, has a blue fragrance described as “a gentle blue rose fragrance of refreshing citrus with a blend of tea characteristics”.

Category : HTs, Grandifloras

Gold Award

Entry No.7

Variety : Vieux Rose

Breeder : Delbard - France

Flower : Deep red, large-cup, semi-hybrid-tea blooms. Glossy leaves with a good balance of foliage and flowers.

Fragrance type : Tea

A tea fragrance with clove-like spiciness and fresh fruity notes.



Silver Award

Entry No.8

Variety : Weissherbst

Breeder : Tamotsu Tomokage - Japan

Flower : Gentle creamy yellow, large hybrid tea blooms.

Fragrance type : Tea

A natural and elegant tea fragrance with a sense of refreshing green lemon and clear sweetness.



Bronze Award

Entry No.17

Variety : Love Sick

Breeder : Fuminori Nukariya – Japan

Flower : Pink, ruffled petal, plump cup blooms.

Fragrance type : Tea

A refreshing tea fragrance with apricot-like fruitiness and honey-like sweetness.



Category : F

Gold Award

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

Entry No.19

Variety : Ninfa

Breeder : Tamotsu Tomokage - Japan

Flower : Magnificent large blooms that transition from a hybrid tea bloom form to a flat bloom form as the color transitions from salmon pink to white.

Fragrance type : Myrrh

A myrrh fragrance of refreshing citrus and spice with a blend of anise characteristics.



Silver Award

Special prize : Niigata Prefectural Governor's Award

Entry No.34

Variety : With Smile

Breeder : Hirotoomi Yamakawa - Japan

Flower : Pink, closely packed blooms that transition to rosette blooms. A generous bloom variety with abundant blossoms that blooms all at once.

Fragrance type : Fruity

A fruity fragrance of green apple with a blend of gentle floral sweetness.



Bronze Award

Entry No.22

Variety : L'été

Breeder : Takunori Kimura - Japan

Flower : Rosette blooms with the color transition from yellow to creamy yellow.

Fragrance type : Tea

A tea fragrance with the notes of fruity sweetness and anise.



Special prize : Nagaoka City Mayor's Award

Entry No.28

Variety : MIREI

Breeder : Kimiko Kobayashi - Japan

Flower : Lavender-blue, very-double, ruffled petal flat blooms.

Fragrance type : Blue

A gentle blue rose fragrance of fresh citrus with a blend of tea notes.



Category : S

Gold Award

Entry No.42

Variety : Couronne Rouge (KIM-J-1294)

Breeder : Takunori Kimura - Japan

Flower : The color transitions from bright rich pink to pink, and the front side of petals is in rich color with fine spots. Large, ruffled petal, rosette blooms.

Fragrance type : Damask-Modern

A gorgeous damask fragrance of fresh lemon and strong honey-like sweetness.



Silver Award

Entry No.43

Variety : Mother Elegans

Breeder : Koichi Sakaue - Japan

Flower : Pink, medium-cup, rosette or quarter blooms.

Fragrance type : Fruity

A fruity fragrance of honey-like sweet roses with refreshing apricot and green apple notes.



Bronze Award

Entry No.38

Variety : 10-10356-5

Breeder : Delbard - France

Flower : Red-purple, large rosette blooms. The petals curl into a whorl shape as the blooming progresses.

Fragrance type : Damask-Modern

A gorgeous damask fragrance of apple fruity scent with added extra sweetness and depth.



Category : Min

Bronze Award

Entry No.48

Variety : Eliana Hit® PatioHit® Poulpah104®

Breeder : Poulsen Roser A/S - Denmark

Flower : Creamy yellow, closely packed blooms that transition to cup blooms and rosette blooms as the blooming progresses.

Fragrance type : Tea

An elegant tea fragrance with the characteristics of hyacinth-like freshness and light anise.



The 14th 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, 2015.
 - (2) Categories of Acceptable Rose Varieties:
 - Part 1: Large-flowered Roses (HTs, Grandifloras)
 - Part 2: Floribunda Roses (F) (to be the family of "cluster-flowered roses")
 - 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: Limited to a total of four varieties per single breeder.
 - (4) The Number of Trees per Variety:
For each variety, three 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, 2020

◆Judging and Commendation:

Chairman: Yoshihiro Ueda (Visiting Professor, Gifu International Academy of Horticulture)
Deputy: Yuji Ichikawa (Perfumer)
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)
Naomi Okubo (Leader, Quality Control Unit at Institute of Vegetable and Floriculture Science, NARO)
Johji Nishio (WFRS International Judges Committee / President of Machida Rose Society)
Yushi Terazima (Perfumer)
Takahiro 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

◇Breeders : 22 breeders

◇The number of varieties : 49 varieties (HTs-17, F-18, S-12, Min-2)

◇Participating nation : Japan, Denmark, France, U.K.