

The SNHF “Grand Prix de la Rose” Press pack

22 February 2007

SNHF “Grand prix de la rose” SUMMARY

REWARDING OUTSTANDING VARIETIES OF ROSES

The French National Horticultural Society (SNHF) has decided to create a Prize for the best varieties of roses, offering the amateur gardener a guarantee of satisfaction wherever the rose bush is planted.

The prize is for breeders of all origins and thus takes on an international flavour.

To obtain a distinction, varieties must negotiate a real obstacle course as they will be observed by 70 specialists over a two-year period (three for climbing roses) and will have to prove their worth in all types of soil and all types of climate.

It will be a tough ordeal for a good number of varieties, but success in these trials will lead to a great career for the prize-winning variety.

Grand prix de la rose SNHF

PRESENTATION

REWARDING OUTSTANDING VARIETIES OF ROSES

Identifying the varieties that adapt to (virtually) anything

Every rose variety may behave differently depending on where it is planted in France.

Climate, soils and other factors have a greater or lesser influence, which is shown by differences in colours, flower quality, plant vigour, resistance to diseases, flowering period, etc...

In partnership with the professionals, the French National Horticultural Society has decided to organise a competition, the only one of its kind in France, to establish a selection of varieties that adapt to all our regions.

Whether they have been designed by a breeder anywhere, then planted in one of our gardens or parks in the north, south, west or east of the country, these rose bushes must achieve sufficiently similar results everywhere, and therefore provide an assurance of satisfactory success for users.

Seven observation points

The rose bushes will be tested in 7 different places chosen in accordance with advice from the SNH scientific committee to place each variety in different soil and climate conditions. These 7 places are also major centres of population.

- Annecy
- Bordeaux
- L'Haÿ-les-Roses
- Marseille
- Montpellier
- Nancy
- Rennes

Two years of tests (three for climbing roses)

If they win a prize, participants undertake, within the bounds of possibility, to supply enough grafts to ensure the large-scale distribution of these identified varieties via sales agreements. This distribution will go on indefinitely unless the organisers decide otherwise.

The rose bushes will be observed over 2 full growing cycles, 3 for climbing roses.

70 specialists will make up the 7 local juries. The large number involved is also a sign of reliability and impartiality..

An international impact

Breeders of all geographical origins may register to take part.

A limited number of varieties per participant

Each participating breeder may present one or more varieties (maximum three) in the following categories:

- Large-flowered bush
- Floribunda
- Miniature
- Landscape
- Climbing roses

A competition for recent breeds only

Only varieties marketed for less than 5 years on the date of the prize awards and varieties not yet on the market may take part in the competition.

A prize awarded on the initiative of the National Horticultural Society

The French National Horticultural Society is responsible for the Prize competition and runs it via a structure made up of SNHF board members, members of the Rose Section committee, members of the SNHF Science committee, professional rose breeders who are members of the SNHF, a number of personalities and representatives of the organisations that manage the testing sites.

An outstanding promotional tool for the prize-winning varieties

Prizes include a grand Prize (for all types of rose bushes), and distinctions may be awarded by category.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the year and made public at an SNHF press conference and broadcast by the Press and international agencies.

The Prize will also be largely promoted within the French National Horticultural Society: the magazine "Jardins de France", members and the 220 member Societies throughout France.

Grand prix de la rose SNHF

RULES

1. Object of the SNHF Grand Prix de la Rose

The SNHF Grand Prix de la Rose aims to select varieties that perform with consistent success in any French region in which they are planted and to promote them to amateur and professional users. The rose bushes are tested in France's various climate zones.

2. Competition conditions

2.1. Participation

Varieties marketed for less than 5 years on the date of the prize awards and varieties not yet on the market may take part in the competition and must be the subject of a distribution agreement.

2.2. Classification of rose bushes for the competition:

The following classification will be used:

- BGF Large-flowered bush
- BFG Floribunda
- MIN Miniature
- PAY Landscape
- SX Climbing roses

2.3. Presentation conditions:

Each breeder may present a maximum of 3 varieties.

5 examples of each variety will be supplied, except in the case of climbing roses, where 3 examples will be supplied.

The same variety must appear at all the observation sites, otherwise the entry will be cancelled.

2.4. Dispatch conditions:

As soon as possible and, in all cases, prior to sending the rose bushes, the breeder should send the SNHF Grand Prix de la Rose Secretariat, 84 rue de Grenelle 75007 Paris (TEL: 01.44.39.78.78 – FAX: 01.45.44.96.57 – E.mail:info@snhf.org) a form, the template for which is attached, showing, for each variety to be presented in the Grand Prix:

- the class
- the name of the variety
- the year
- the colour
- the height

Once the form is received, the Secretariat will attribute an order number to each variety and inform the breeder of this by return. The number will be attached to each packet of the variety before it is sent off to the various sites

The rose bushes, with bare roots, should be sent carriage paid to each of the site managers, whose names and contact details are shown in the appendix, by the breeder or his representative so that they are received by the sites:

during week 48
or during week 8 of the following year.

For the first Grand Prix, all bushes should be dispatched during week 8.

Dispatches should be accompanied by a letter containing:

- the order number
- the package contents
- the origin of the plants
- their identification
- the categories
- phytosanitary certificates if necessary

At the same time as the plants are sent, a fax or e-mail should be sent to each site and to the SNHF Grand Prix de la Rose Secretariat, 84 rue de Grenelle 75 007 -Paris (TEL: 01.44.39.78.78 – FAX: 01. 45.44.96.57. – E.mail: info @snhf.org) giving information about the varieties, their number, etc... and the fax number and e-mail address of the person responsible for sending them.

On receipt of each consignment of rose bushes, the person responsible for each of the sites will send the breeder concerned proof of receipt, stating the date and time at which the bushes were received. This will be copied to the SNHF.
At a later date, the sites will send the SNHF the planting date.

2.5. Taking over the rose bushes:

The rose bushes will be planted under a number to preserve their anonymity in the field.

The rose bushes will be cultivated and cared for in all the usual ways, depending on site conditions.

Specialist gardeners will be called in to monitor growing conditions on each site.

See the specifications attached to these rules

3. Judging arrangements:

The varieties will be observed over two full growing cycles, three for climbing roses.

3.1 Local observations:

10 local examiners will be chosen under the responsibility of the national technical team. They will examine the rose bushes every year at the following times:

- start of flowering
- mid-flowering
- flowering recovery
- second fortnight in October

They will rely particularly on the gardeners' observations on the plants' vegetative characteristics.

Visits will be grouped. If local examiners cannot attend on a particular date, they may attend individually on a date as close as possible to that of the group visit.

After every visit, the examiners will allocate a mark of 1 to 10. The final result will be the average for all the marks.

For the sake of consistency, the marks of examiners who have completed less than 5 marking sessions out of 8 will not be taken into consideration.

If problems are noted on a site, the marks for that site will not be taken into consideration.

3.2. Scoring of the rose bushes:

Assessments will be made using the following criteria:

- novelty character
- quality of the flower, flowering and flower loss,
- flower density
 - plant growth
 - state of health
 - scent

Each criterion will be given a mark of between 1 and 10 in line with a marking grid, which will be supplied.

3.3 National jury:

The national jury will be made up of:

- breeders who have asked to join the jury
- representatives of observation sites, 1 per site
- SNHF representatives
- personalities with a strong interest in roses

The jury will appoint a Chairman to direct the work.

The jury will draw up an average for the marks collected on the sites.

4. Prizes:

The prizes will include:

- a grand prize (for all types of rose bushes)

Only a variety that has obtained an average of at least 7/10 will qualify for this prize. Varieties that receive an average local mark of less than 5 in at least two observation sites will be eliminated, even if they achieve this mark.

- prizes may be awarded by category, but only one for each category, two in very exceptional circumstances.

Prize-winning participants will undertake, within the bounds of possibility, to supply enough grafts to ensure large-scale promotional distribution for which the prize-winning bushes will be marked.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the year.

The prize list will be made public at a SNHF press conference, broadcast by the press and international information agencies and sent individually to all participating breeders.

5. Conditions for participation:

Enrolment for the competition means full acceptance of these rules.

SNHF Grand prix de la rose

PRESENTATION OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND THE ROSE SECTION

Founded in 1827, the French National Horticultural Society is an association under the Act of 1901 and recognised as serving the public interest. It will therefore be celebrating its 180th birthday this year!

In over a century and a half, the association has been chaired by prestigious men and women from the world of horticulture and leading public personalities.

The SNHF has several tens of thousands of members, directly or via some 250 local and national member societies for which it plays a unifying role.

Its aim is to **promote horticulture, act as a link between amateurs and professionals, participate in initiatives to further the understanding and protection of our plant heritage and the art of gardening.**

Object of the association (article 2):

- To encourage and promote horticulture in all its applications.
- To improve horticultural understanding through research, study, travel, surveys, publications and all forms of communication.
- To contribute towards, coordinate and encourage the work of horticultural societies, and to provide the necessary links between them.
- To help to represent French horticulture in all circumstances, nationally and internationally.
- To help to maximise consultation between researchers, horticultural professionals, users and amateurs.
- To take part in initiatives to further the understanding, promotion and protection of our plant heritage and biodiversity.
- To help towards initiatives to plant more flowers in France, enhance the country's beauty and improve the local living environment.
- As part of its activities, to organise trips and holidays for its members in France and abroad.

The rose section

Many plant lovers have a particular enthusiasm for a certain kind of plant. They can enjoy and share this enthusiasm in specialist sections.

In 2007, the rose section has planned to organise talks and visits. In addition to organising the "SNHF Grand Prix de la rose" and publishing a special report on roses, it is currently producing a guide to public and private rose gardens. It is also looking into the possibility of closer ties with university research establishments.

CONTENTS OF THE "SPECIAL REPORT ON ROSES" BY JARDINS DE FRANCE

This special 48-page report will be included in the May 2007 issue.

► Editorial, introduction, thanks

► The genealogy of roses

► The different rose families

- Botanical
- Bushes with large flowers
- Floribunda
- Shrub, landscape, climbing, rambler and ground cover varieties
- Climbers
- Miniatures
- Boxed article on stem roses

► New varieties

- Breeding method
- Current research criteria: shapes, scents, colours, resistance
- Trends and fashions
- Rose baptisms
- Boxed article on breeders and publishers worldwide

► Scent

How is it expressed, in what conditions, how do we perceive it?

► Buying

- Presentation (bare roots, root ball, container)
- Stock (its value, its wording)
- Time of the year
- Distribution circuits (retail outlets, growers, plant festivals, home sales)

► Production and protection

Cut-flower roses, production areas, protection and licences (dual name, varietal and commercial), counterfeits.

► Planting and maintenance

Preparation, precautions, location, watering, care...

► A selection of varieties in charts with a mention of strengths

► Where to see beautiful roses?

- Competitions in France and abroad, large rose gardens, ADR, AARS, SNHF competitions
- Selection of public and private rose gardens, events based on roses, associations
- Selection of books (recent publications still available or reference books to consult at the library)
- Websites
- Courses for amateurs