

The Roses

Firstly it's important to grow the varieties that will be likely to bring you success on the show benches, that's the easy part, just look around a spring show and see which varieties are winning and which of them appeal to you. Growing miniatures is easier as a first step, they are obviously smaller, and they are virtually bombproof.

Most of the varieties on display will be available by mail order from:

C & K Jones
Golden Fields Nursery
Barrow Lane
Tarvin
Cheshire

CH3 8JF

Tel: 01829 740663

Email: info@jonestherose.co.uk

OR

R. V. Roger Ltd

Malton Road

Pickering

North Yorkshire

YO18 7JW

Tel : 01751 472226

Email: sales@rvroger.co.uk

Ordering roses from either of these suppliers will ensure that you have top quality bushes in November ready to pot up and place in a cold greenhouse in December. Use 10 litre flower buckets with some added drainage holes, these can be obtained from your local florist or supermarket, normally for just a few pence each. Proprietary, peat based compost is perfectly adequate, one with a small percentage of added John Innes compost is probably best. Traditional thinking suggests that roses must be potted in one season and grown outside, in their pots before bringing into the greenhouse for their second season but it's possible to pot roses up in November and grown them on for Spring flowering.

Where will we grow the roses?

Once planted, a suitable home must be found for our roses. Any type of greenhouse may be used. Roses may be grown for Malvern in a poly tunnel, in a conventional glass greenhouse or in a poly-carbonate greenhouse. In truth, they can be grown anywhere that can be kept light and frost free, especially once the green shoots of growth appear. The keen Malvern growers will use artificial lighting and some form of heating to

get the roses just right **but** a cold, unlit space can, and often does, produce good results.

Growing

After planting, giving them a good watering and a light prune on or around Christmas Day, there is very little left to do except sit back and wait for them to grow. It's always a good idea to keep a good look out for unwanted visitors. By February the local greenfly community will be looking out for a warm eating house and your fresh green shoots will attract every self respecting greenfly for miles around. You may choose your own method of bug destruction but one spray with a systemic pesticide should be enough until the roses have bloomed and the pots are moved outside for the summer. If you are spraying inside please remember to wear all appropriate safety equipment. Feeding is a matter of personal choice and experience. Remember, your greenhouse roses will grow much slower than your garden roses as light levels and ambient temperatures will be much lower. This will result in bigger blooms, on much longer stems than you would normally expect. If you are growing miniatures, these false conditions will mean that your blooms will be significantly bigger. Over feeding your roses will only make your roses bigger which may not be desirable for miniature classes.

By late April most of the buds on the roses should be showing colour, the side buds should be removed from the stems that are to be used for single stems and likewise the terminal (end) buds should be removed from the stems that are to bear a cluster of blooms. Because the roses grow at a much slower pace, the blooms take longer to mature and will be at (and remain at) the perfect stage for longer; this makes things much easier for exhibiting.

To enter, and win, the Malvern Spring Championship may require you to grow up to forty roses. This number should provide you with more than enough blooms to enter all classes at the show. A more modest number of bushes even as few as four or five bushes should provide enough blooms to enter a few of the classes. You'll be amazed at how rewarding and exhilarating it can be to get a rose to the Malvern show. Why not give it a try yourself?

Some varieties that have been successful at Malvern include:

Miniatures:

Irresistible
Glowing Amber
Luis Desamero
Hot Tamale
Amber Star
Behold
Ruby Baby
Soroptomist International
Baby Boomer
Stacey Sue
X Rated
Summer Snow
Minnie Pearl
Amber Sunset
Make a wish

Floribundas:

Hakuun
Iceberg

Hybrid Teas:

Piccadilly
Grandpa Dickson
Silver Anniversary
Stephanie Dianne
Dreamtime
Admiral Rodney
Red Devil
Twice in a Blue Moon
Signature
Pedrus Aquarius
Gemini

ROSES FOR MALVERN SPRING SHOW

FACT SHEET



Copies of RNRS Fact Sheets and are available from The Royal National Rose Society, Chiswell Green, St Albans, Herts AL2 3NR Please telephone **0845 8334344**. If you are not already a member of The Royal National Rose Society, why not join our Society and enjoy the many benefits of great membership. These include: FREE admission to selected rose gardens, including the Gardens of The Rose at St Albans, a FREE quarterly copy of the Society's journal *The Rose* and many other privileges.

Registered Charity No.1035848