



NEW ENGLAND ROSE SOCIETY
Presents

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Rose Show

The Botanical Garden at Tower Hill
June 21, 2025

85th Annual Rose Show
New England Rose Society
June 21, 2025

A Midsummer Night's Dream Rose Show

On this summer solstice, we are thrilled to invite you to step into a world of beauty and whimsy as we celebrate this milestone event with the theme, “*A Midsummer Night's Dream*.” Inspired by Shakespeare’s timeless tale, this year’s rose show promises a magical blend of floricultural excellence and artistic expression.

Our show includes traditional horticultural, challenge and arrangement classes, held to the standards of the American Rose Society. This year, we are also embracing the playful spirit of Shakespeare’s beloved characters with creative classes that encourage exhibitors to unleash their imagination.

Each rose on display tells its own story, and together, the roses weave a tapestry of midsummer magic. Whether you are a competitor, a seasoned rose lover, or a curious visitor, we hope you find inspiration in this fusion of natural wonder and theatrical creativity.

On behalf of the New England Rose Society, thank you for joining us for this special celebration. Here’s to an unforgettable midsummer day filled with roses, dreams, and a touch of magic!



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The rules and regulations governing this show are usually in accord with the rules and regulations of the ARS for exhibiting roses. Special instructions are provided for the Rose Arrangement classes.

1. Except as noted in the schedule, competition is open to all rose growers regardless of residence. All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor in his or her own private outdoor garden. Only one person or team from any one garden may enter a class.
2. Worktables will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. Please arrive early, so that entries can be placed in time. Worktables must be removed, and all debris and water spills cleaned, by each exhibitor as required by safety regulations of the facility by 9:45 a.m.
3. Entries will be received from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Saturday, June 21, 2025. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. The show will open to the public at 12:00 p.m.
4. Except as noted in the schedule, the show committee will furnish all containers. Containers and other properties are available on a first come, first served basis. Exhibitors who find they will not require a property are asked to return it at the earliest moment. Exhibitors are responsible for filling containers with water.
5. All entries must be accompanied by an entry tag showing: class, variety name, and the exhibitor's name and address. One tag per exhibit regardless of number of containers. Both sections of the tag must be completed. Please print. Use only pen with black or blue ink, stamps or name labels. Challenge Class tags are available for classes where multiple varieties must be listed.
6. Wedges and supports are permitted; however soft, water-absorbing floral foam such as Oasis is discouraged and Styrofoam is preferred. Please ensure that wedging material can be easily removed and will not fall to the bottom of the container.
7. Except for Class 26 (Who Am I?), rose varieties exhibited must be entered under the American Exhibition Name (AEN) of the American Rose Society as listed in any one of the following official ARS publications: Modern Roses Database, the Official List of Approved Exhibition Names for Judges & Exhibitors, the Handbook for Selecting Roses, or the Rose Registrations column of The American Rose magazine. In cases where a variety is not listed in any of the above ARS publications, a listing in The Combined Rose List or a listing on [www. helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com) is acceptable when not available in these publications. Classification of all roses shall be in accordance with ARS publications to the date of the show.
8. This is an alphabetical show. Except for challenge classes and classes specifying multiple varieties, all roses in each class will be placed alphabetically and each variety in each class shall constitute a separate subclass for judging. Unless specified otherwise in the class

description, exhibitors may make multiple entries per class provided each entry is a different variety.

9. ARS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates will be awarded to Queen, King, and Princess of Show. ARS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates will also be awarded to the Queen, King, and Princess of each Floribunda, Modern Shrub, and Miniature & Miniflora sections. ARS Certificates will be awarded in all other classes for which they are available.
10. Entries in the horticultural classes (Section A, Classes 1-21) are to be placed by exhibitors in alphabetical order. The committee may move these entries for the purpose of alphabetization. Entries in the challenge classes (Section B, Classes 22-35) are placed by the exhibitors in designated locations and may not be touched or moved by others until completion of judging of the class. Members of the show committee will assist exhibitors with placement, but responsibility for correct classification and placement is solely that of the exhibitor. During judging, only Judges, Clerks, and Members of the Show Committee shall be permitted in the show area.
11. A. Judging shall be in accordance with rules and regulations of the American Rose Society, and all decisions of the judges are final. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible for trophy awards.

B. The “AMERICAN ROSE” magazine of January - February 2023, pgs. 32-33 announced several new procedures that allow Judges to exhibit in the shows which they are Judging. We will employ the “Step Back” procedure from that article. It allows the Judges of the NERS Show to exhibit in whatever classes they choose in this show which they are judging, as long as they step back whenever one of their roses is up to be judged. The ARS reasoning for this change is set forth in the article cited above.
12. Entries in the Horticulture Division and Challenge Classes (Sections A & B) in violation of the ARS or Show Rules may be disqualified. Entries could be disqualified for the following reasons:
 - a. Misnamed, mislabeled, or unlabeled roses
 - b. The presence of a foreign substance applied to the specimen
 - c. Violation of any other ARS, or Challenge/Collection requirement.
13. No containers may be removed from the trophy table without permission from the Show Chair. No entries may be removed from the show before closing.
14. Neither the New England Rose Society, nor the Worcester County Horticultural Society (Tower Hill) shall be liable for loss or damage to entries, containers, or property, or for injury to persons attending the rose show. Liability of all nature is disclaimed. All specimens entered in the Horticultural Division shall become the property of the New England Rose Society.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

"Guidelines for Judging Roses" by the ARS Committee on Training and Accrediting Rose Judges, is the official judge's handbook for this show.

SCORING SYSTEM FOR JUDGING

Roses will be judged on the following point scale:

Form.....	25
Color.....	20
Substance.....	15
Stem and Foliage	20
Balance and Proportion	10
Size	10
Total.....	100

- All Entries are subject to the ARS rules governing disqualification. Disqualification may occur if the specimen is, or has, as follows:
 - Misnamed.
 - Mislabeled or unlabeled.
 - The presence of a foreign substance applied to the specimen.
 - The exhibitor's name in any location other than the designated place on the entry tag.
 - In violation of the NERS rules.
- Side buds remaining on exhibits will not disqualify an entry, however, an entry with side buds may be penalized as a distracting or unattractive feature.
- At the time of judging, an exhibition rose should be in the most perfect phase of its possible beauty. This is when the bloom is approximately one-half to three-quarters open and has a well-formed center. Buds, roses just beginning to open, do not qualify as blooms.
- Polyanthas, floribundas, climbers, and other roses which naturally occur as sprays, may be shown with side buds.
- All sections for miniature roses are open to Miniflora roses as well, when so designated in the show schedule.
- Only blue-ribbon winners are eligible for trophy awards.
- Challenge class entries will not be considered for court awards.
- Special sections may be added after entries close if the quantities of exhibits warrant this action.

9. The decisions of the judges shall be final.



Section A: Horticultural Classes
(Placed Alphabetically on the Table)

1. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition stage. Side buds may be penalized.

Queen, King, and Princess of Show
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2. One Decorative Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Bloom

One bloom stem at the most perfect stage of beauty of a Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora variety that does not display the exhibition form.

NERS Certificate
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3. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Spray

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate
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4. One Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Open

One bloom stem, fully open with stamens showing. Side buds may be penalized.

ARS Certificate
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5. One Floribunda Bloom (Frederick W. Levesque Memorial Award)

One bloom stem at the exhibition stage for that variety. Includes climbing floribundas (Cl F). Side buds may be penalized.

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6. One Floribunda or Polyantha Spray (Karl Jones Trophy)

Two or more blooms on a stem. Includes climbing floribundas (Cl F).

ARS Certificate
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7. Best Climber

One bloom or spray of a large-flowered climber (LCl), hybrid wichurana (HWich), or hybrid gigantea (HG). No other type of rose is permitted in this class (including Cl HTs, Cl Min, etc.)

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8. Singles

One bloom stem of any large variety rose, **without side buds**, at the most perfect stage of beauty. Must be classified as a single (4-8 petals).

ARS Certificate
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9. One Miniature Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition form. Side buds may be penalized.

Miniature Queen, King, and Princess of Show

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10. One Miniflora Bloom

One bloom stem at the exhibition form. Side buds may be penalized.

Miniflora Queen, King, and Princess of Show

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11. One Miniature Spray (Nor'East Miniature Roses Trophy)

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate

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12. One Miniature or Miniflora Open Bloom

One open bloom stem (side buds may be penalized). No singles. Must be fully open and stamens must show.

ARS Certificate

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13. One Miniflora Spray

Two or more blooms on a stem.

ARS Certificate

Sponsored by

14. Dowager Queen (Denman-Whidden Trophy)

One bloom or spray. Species (Sp) roses and old garden rose varieties introduced prior to 1867, including roses of unknown dates known to have been in existence prior to 1867. It is suggested that the date of introduction be noted on the entry tag.

Dowager Queen Certificate

Sponsored by

15. Victorian Award

One bloom or spray. Old garden roses introduced in 1867 or later, or with unknown dates of origin after 1867. It is suggested that the date of introduction be noted on the entry tag.

Victorian Rose Certificate

Sponsored by

16. Classic Shrub

One bloom or spray of a hybrid rugosa (HRg), hybrid kordesii (HKor), hybrid musk (HMsk), or hybrid moyesii (HMoy).

ARS Certificate

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17. Modern Shrub (Edmund Albert Lowe Memorial Trophy)

One bloom or spray (two or more blooms) of a variety classified as a shrub (S).

ARS Certificate

Eligible for Modern Shrub Queen, King, and Princess of Show

Sponsored by

18. English Style Shrub Rose

One bloom or spray of any "S" variety with flowers that display the form of an English Garden Rose. Roses bred by any hybridizer may be entered.

NERS Certificate

Eligible for Modern Shrub Queen, King, and Princess of Show

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Judges will select the Modern Shrub Queen, King, and Princess from the blue-ribbon winners of Classes 17 and 18.

19. Best Red Rose (Frazer Cup)

An entry of one stem (one bloom without side buds) or spray at the most perfect stage of beauty that is classified as red (mr, dr). Limit one entry per exhibitor.

NERS Certificate

Sponsored by

20. Novice

This class is open to exhibitors who have not yet received three (3) blue ribbons, or won best in class, in any horticultural class in an ARS sanctioned show. Exhibitors may enter any type of rose specified in Classes 1 through 19. Please indicate the type of rose on the entry tag. Novice entries are eligible for their respective courts.

Best overall entry in this class will be awarded the ARS Novice Certificate

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21. Judges of the Show

Judges of the show may enter up to three (3) stems of any type of rose as specified in classes 1 through 19.

ARS Certificate

Sponsored by

Section B: New England Rose Society Challenge Classes

Exhibitors or exhibiting teams are limited to one entry each in Classes 22-35.

22. Rainbow of Roses

Seven different varieties, each classified as a different color class: two whites (w), one red (mr, dr, or rb), one orange (ob) or apricot (ab), one yellow (ly, my, dy), one mauve (m), one pink (lp, mp, dp), at the most perfect stage of beauty. Each displayed in their own container and arranged in such a way that it creates a rainbow with roses. No miniature or miniflora varieties.

NERS Certificate
Sponsored by

23. Three Shrubs (Buck Trophy)

One stem each of three (3) different shrub varieties, classic or modern shrub, exhibited in separate containers. Exhibitors may use their own containers in this class.

NERS Certificate
Sponsored by

24. Organic Rose Garden

One bloom or spray of any rose, at the most perfect stage of beauty from a garden that is exclusively managed through organic gardening techniques. Roses grown in gardens that utilize non-organic sprays, systemic pesticides and fungicides, and/or synthetic fertilizers are not permitted.

NERS Certificate
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25. Teresa Mosher's Purple Rose Challenge

One stem or spray of any rose classified as mauve (m) or mauve-blend (mb).

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26. Who am I?

One specimen of any type of rose without an American Exhibition Name or whose American Exhibition Name is not known by the exhibitor, including seedlings, sports, found roses, and other non-registered roses.

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27. Best Striped Rose

One rose bloom of any kind featuring stripes of color at the exhibition stage for that variety.

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28. Local Hybridizer

One stem or spray of any rose that was hybridized by someone who lives or lived in New England. The rose must be listed or noted either in any American Rose Society publication, or in the Combined Rose List or on the Help Me Find website. Some New England hybridizers are: Dave Berg, Walter and Josephine Brownell, Mike Lowe, Harm Saville, Andy Vanable, and Michael Walsh.

NERS Certificate
Sponsored by

29. Masterpiece of the Garden

One or more blooms of any one variety except miniatures or minifloras. May be shown with or without stems, foliage and buds. No accessories allowed. Frames (8" x 10") furnished by the Show Committee are available on a first come basis. Exhibitors may provide their own 8"x10" frame for this class. The frame may be displayed vertically or horizontally. One entry per exhibitor.

NERS Certificate
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30. English Box - Large Roses

Six (6) blooms, without foliage, of one, two, or three varieties, at the most perfect stage of beauty, in an English Box. No miniatures or minifloras. English Box to be supplied by the show committee. All varieties to be correctly named on one entry tag.

NERS Certificate
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31. English Box - Miniature or Miniflora

Six (6) miniature or miniflora rose blooms, without foliage, of one, two or three varieties at the most perfect stage of beauty, in an English Box. English Box to be supplied by the show committee. All varieties to be correctly named on one entry tag.

NERS Certificate
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32. Rose Bowl - Large Open Bloom (Peck Award)

One large rose bloom without foliage, fully open with stamens showing, of any type other than miniature or miniflora exhibited floating in clear water.

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33. Rose Bowl - Miniature or Miniflora Open Bloom

One miniature or miniflora bloom, without foliage, fully open with stamens showing, exhibited floating in clear water.

ARS Certificate
Sponsored by

34. Color Family Rose Bowl - Large Roses

Three (3) different varieties, other than miniature or miniflora, at the most perfect stage of beauty, in the same color class floating in a bowl, proportional to the size of the roses. No foliage. Stamens may show but are not required to be visible.

Note: Exhibitors must provide their own containers for this class.

NERS Certificate
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35. Most Fragrant Rose – People’s Choice

One rose of any type per exhibitor. Judges will verify identity, and the winner will be chosen by ballot of show attendees.

NERS Certificate
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SPECIAL AWARDS

Sweepstakes (Arnold Trophy)

The sweepstakes award and ARS certificate will be presented to the exhibitor receiving the most first place awards (blue ribbons) in Classes 1 through 35. The sweepstakes award is restricted to members of the New England Rose Society.

ARS Certificate

Best English Box

Judges will select the winner of the ARS Best English Box certificate from the winners of Classes 30 & 31.

ROSE ARRANGEMENTS

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Time Schedule: Arrangements may be put in Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 7:30-9:30 am. Judging will begin promptly at 10:00 am. All arrangements, vases and awards must remain in place until the show is taken down, allowing time to view exhibits and take photos. Removal time is at 2:30 pm. If you are unable to pick up your arrangements at the close of the show, please have someone else do so. The NERS will not be responsible for any properties left after 3:30 pm.
2. Staging: Arrangements will be staged on either black or white linen covered tables, approximately 30" in width, or on pedestals. No niches will be provided. Backgrounds, niches (winged) and frames are allowed in all sections, as long as they are proportionate to the space allotted. Fabric or other materials may be used to drape or cover the background or table. Standard designs may not exceed 24" in width or depth. There is no height restriction for standard designs. Miniature designs may not exceed 12" in width, depth or height.
3. Reservations are required before 3pm on June 20th for all arrangement classes, to ensure table space. (Entrants without reservations may be accommodated as long as table space is available.) For reservations, please contact Lauren Gisel (lrduff10@gmail.com or text 860-729-3760) with arranger's name and Class Number of each arrangement.
4. Eligibility: More than one exhibitor from the same garden may enter the same class. Horticulture Judges for this show may enter all arrangement classes. Arrangement Judges may compete in Classes 1-6 but will not judge any entered class.
5. Exhibitors are permitted only one entry in each class (except for Section D).
6. "Arranger Grown" (AG): For an arrangement to have the declaration of "AG", it must only include outdoor, arranger grown roses. "AG" must be shown on each arrangement entry tag. Roses must be grown by the arranger, however other plant/line/filler material need not be grown by the arranger.
7. Materials: Roses must be the dominant flower in all arrangements. For Section C, all roses must be fresh, and garden grown. No dried roses. Other flowers and foliage may be used except where specified. Artificial plant materials, painted plants, electrical devices or flags are not allowed. Accessories are permitted in all classes, but should be subordinate, unless when used as a featured object in the design.
 - a. For Section D, dried, florist and indoor grown roses are allowed, in addition to garden grown roses. Specifically for classes 5 & 6, all types of materials and accessories are allowed, except for flags.

8. For arrangement classes 1-6, a 3 x 5 card may be used to briefly explain the design concept.
9. Judging and Awards: Judging of Section C will be done by ARS accredited rose arrangement judges and their decisions are final. A design must score at least 90 points to be eligible for a first-place ribbon. First, second, third and honorable mention ribbons can be awarded in each class.
10. Section C is governed by the current rules and procedures of the ARS. The ARS Approved Exhibition Name or an accepted synonym for all roses must be written on the entry tag. Judges will verify that roses are not misnamed. An arrangement incorrectly placed in a class will be judged in the class in which it is placed. There are two causes for disqualification: roses are not outdoor grown and use of artificial plant material.

DEFINITIONS

Traditional Design

Line Design follows a linear pattern and uses a small quantity of plant materials in an open silhouette.

Line-Mass Design uses additional material to strengthen the line but maintains the open silhouette.

Mass Design uses large quantities of material to create a mass effect with few voids. It can still be open and airy.

Corsage or Personal Adornment must include pin for wearing and a tied ribbon bow.

Oriental Manner Design uses a minimum of plant material, emphasizing the perfection of roses.

Moribana Style uses a low container with water showing.

Nageire Style uses a tall container for a “throw-in” appearance.

Free Style Oriental uses any kind of oriental container with plant material used to express the designer’s feelings, images and impressions. Man-made materials may be included in free style designs.

Modern Creative or Abstract - Complete freedom is allowed in designing; an emphasis on open space, using some plant material with unique, bold forms, and dynamic lines. Man-made materials may be included, unless otherwise specified. Lights may be allowed to augment the design, but no electrical cords or outlets are available.

Abstract Design with dominance in abstraction, non-naturalistic, non-realistic with components used solely for line, form, color, texture and integrated space.

Underwater Designs must have a focal area of the design placed under water in a clear or transparent container. Approximately 1/3 of the design should be underwater.

Parallel Designs have three or more groupings of materials (using one or more containers as one unit). The groupings may be placed in any direction (vertical, horizontal or diagonal) to give continuity. All groupings must be parallel in the same direction. They must have negative space between groupings and appear as one arrangement.

(See “*Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements*” American Rose Society for more detailed information.)

ARS OFFICIAL SCORE CARD FOR JUDGING ROSE ARRANGEMENTS

CONFORMANCE: (5 points per Principle) 15
a) roses correctly named
b) conformance to type of design
c) other specific requirements of the schedule

DESIGN all principles: (5 points per Principle) 30

Balance: Visual stability. Actual or visual weight on either side of an imaginary central axis.

Dominance: No equal amounts of either color, shape or form.

Contrast: Differences in form, shape and/or color to develop interest.

Rhythm: Rhythm is achieved by repetition, radiation and/or variation; may be smooth, dynamic, graceful, or gentle. Rhythm is the dominant visual path through the design.

Proportion: Proportion refers to the relative amounts of a component in relation to the other components of the design and to the whole design. Proportion also refers to the whole, the placement and to the space it occupies.

Scale: The size relationship of one component to another and to the whole. Too great a variation in sizes means poor scale.

PERFECTION OF THE ROSE 30

Roses should be in peak condition, with good substance, and have fresh foliage. Other plant materials should be in good condition.

CREATIVITY AND EXPRESSIVENESS 15

Imaginative and creative handling and use of materials.

DISTINCTION 10

Uniqueness: sets the design apart, superiority in every respect; includes technical execution/construction includes condition of non-rose material

Total..... 100

Section C: Arrangement

1. Puck's Love Potion

Traditional Standard Design

Arranger's choice of traditional design using fresh standard roses. May also include miniature varieties, fresh or naturally dried plant material. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of Traditional Design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS Royalty Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

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2. A Dream Within A Dream

Modern Standard Design

Arranger's choice of modern design using fresh standard roses. May also include miniature varieties; fresh or naturally dried plant material; man-made materials such as plastic or wire used in a non-naturalist manner. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of modern design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS Artist's Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

3. Midnight Sun

East Asian Standard Design

Arranger's choice of East Asian design using fresh standard roses. May also include miniature varieties; fresh or naturally dried plant material; man-made materials such as plastic or wire used in a non-naturalist manner. Design must not exceed 24 inches in width or depth; no height restriction. Type of East Asian design must be stated on the entry tag.*

Eligible for ARS East Asian Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

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4. A Sprinkle of Fairy Dust

Miniature Traditional Design

Arranger's choice of traditional design using fresh miniature or miniflora roses. May also include fresh or naturally dried plant material. Design must not exceed 12 inches in width, depth, or height. Type of Traditional Design must be stated on the entry tag. Judges will select a Miniature Gold award winner.

Eligible for ARS Miniature Royalty Award

Eligible for ARS Certificate if Arranger Grown

* Judges will select winners of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards for Standard Roses from Classes 1, 2, and 3.

Section D: Rose Reverie

5. Queen Titania's Crown

Flower Crown

In this class, exhibitors will create a flower crown with roses as the primary flower. Large, miniature, and miniflora roses are allowed. Additional materials are allowed for creative expression, with the exception of flags. Florist roses may be used. Busts for display will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, exhibitors are also welcome to bring their own display supports, as long as their arrangements fit within the specified dimensions. Each display must not exceed 16" feet in width, and there is no height restriction. Exhibitors can include a 3" x 5" card to briefly describe the design concept. Entries will be displayed outside of the exhibition room, on white or black covered tables, approximately 30" in width, or covered pedestals. This class emphasizes both creativity and craftsmanship, celebrating the beauty of roses in enchanting, wearable floral art. Winner will be chosen by ballot of show attendees.

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6. King Oberon's Woodland Path

Fairy Garden Scene

In this class, exhibitors will create a fairy garden scene, where roses must be the central feature. Large, miniature, and miniflora roses are allowed. All materials are permitted, except for flags, allowing exhibitors to bring their magical scenes to life. Florist roses may be used. Each display must be no larger than 2' wide x 2' in depth - there is no height restriction. Entries can include a 3" x 5" card to briefly describe the scene to guide viewers' imaginations. Entries will be displayed outside of the exhibition room, on white or black covered tables, approximately 30" in width, or covered pedestals. Winner will be chosen by ballot of show attendees.

NERS Certificate
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