

Growing Miniatures in Containers

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Many gardeners do not think of a rose as a plant that may be container grown. Containers however if planted in an appropriate way can be a wonderful way to grow our National flower. The rose may be combined with other plants such as vinca to make an attractive focal point in your garden. Containers are also a great way to see how a particular variety will do prior to giving it valuable space in your rose bed. Although all types of roses can be grown in a container this article will concentrate on the use of miniature roses in pots. Miniatures are especially suited for containers due to the fact that smaller containers are suitable for them unlike the larger types, which require a minimum of a 10-gallon container.

The first factor to consider is the container. Short term planting (less than 1 year) can be done in as small as a three gallon pot. For longer duration plantings I use a minimum of a 5-gallon container. There are many types of containers from which to choose. A standard black plastic pot is an inexpensive type you may use and you can often purchase them used at garden centers for as little as \$0.25. If you are planning on planting the mini in the ground at a later date my choice is the compressed peat pot. The rose may be planted without removing it from the container. The disadvantage to this container is it will break down over time so it shouldn't be used as a permanent above ground container. I find the containers will last for two years at most. They pots are also more expensive than the black plastic containers. If you want to use a decorative container such as a clay pot I strongly encourage you to line the container with a thick plastic liner. The clay will absorb too much moisture causing a continual need for water. Right now I am using a 7 gallon plastic container that is clay colored or white. I feel these do not overheat the roots as badly as the black plastic containers.

The second factor to consider is the soil mixture used in the container. I use 1/3 topsoil from the garden, 1/3 Perlite (Vermiculite or Peat Moss are acceptable alternatives), and 1/3 compost (I prefer mushroom compost). I find commercial potting soils dry out too quickly. I will also mix in an appropriate amount of a time-released fertilizer. The amount I use is dependent on the size of the container. Check the package insert on the fertilizer you are using.

The final issue to consider is the special need of the potted miniature. Any rose in a container will have greater water demands. Most of my container grown roses in 5-gallon containers will get ½ gallon of water every 3 days during normal growing conditions. In extreme heat these plants will require up to ½ gallon every day. I also feel container-grown plants require a little more fertilization. I will feed them on the schedule I feed the miniatures in beds but continue monthly feedings of an organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion during the summer months. (Normally feeding is stopped during the summer growing season). Spraying must be kept up on a routine schedule- just as with plants in beds. Container grown miniatures may be a little more prone to spider mites. These can be controlled well by vigorous washing with a water wand. Finally it is recommend that roses in containers be repotted at least every three years to rejuvenate the soil. Plants can be split into multiple plants when the repotting is done. It is best to repot the plants when they are dormant. Roses in containers should be protected during the winter months by covering them with leaves or storing them in the garage or under your deck. If kept in the garage I will water them once during the winter.

This spring give a container a try with miniatures. I think you'll like the results!

New Miniatures and Mini-Floras for 2002
Buckeye District Spring Meeting April 6, 2002
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Miniatures

Amber Sunset- (The Mini Rose Garden) This is the third of sister seedlings to be introduced by George Mander. It follows *Glowing Amber* and *Golden Beryl* (all three are sister seedlings). The hybridizer held this one so it could compete in the A.O.E. trials. It apparently just missed the award. Like its predecessors the bush grows low producing mainly solitary blooms of yellow/amber that turn more orange/red in direct sun.

Anne Hering- (Mitchie's Minis and More) The positives are the plant produces unfailing exhibition blooms. The negatives are the plant is can beslow to get started and not prone to producing good stem length. The color may also not work in its favor. In the catalog it is described as rosy pink to apricot to russet. There are very differing reports from the east and west coast regarding the color it produces.

Arcanum- (www.rosemania.com) Most Colonial District members have seen this mini introduced in 2001 (it queened at our District show). This well formed exhibition rose resembles *Lynette* with cream petals edged with salmon. Some exhibitors question its ability to hold well. The plant is sometimes slow to get started and winter tender but the payoff can be great for this new queen contender.

Becky Adams- (Mitchie's Minis and More) This is the sister seedling to *Anne Hering*. It possesses the same exhibition form but the color is a more consistent mauve with red petal tips.

Best Friends- (Bridges Roses) An A.O.E. award winner for 2002 has outstanding orange and yellow color like its parent *Hot Tamale*. The description in the catalog describes a garden rose rather than a exhibition variety. My "sources" for the new varieties had no comment on exhibition potential so the jury remains out.

Breath of Spring- (Bridges Roses) A bright yellow medium sized yellow on what the catalog describes as a "vigorous, upright plant"- again no mention of exhibition potential for this one.

Dancing Flame- (www.rosemania.com) Word on this Robbie Tucker rose introduced late last year is it is the best of his new ones. It is light yellow with bright red edges. He compares it to the hybrid tea *Flaming Beauty*. The color will take it far if it lives up to the billing. It has already won several queens.

Hilde- (Nor'East Miniature Roses, Bridges) This Frank Bernadella miniature has many characteristics of another mini he hybridized- *Kristin*. The plant grows low to the ground and produces well-formed pink and white blooms with great holding power. This variety along with *Merlot* is supposed to be the top exhibition minis from Nor'East this year.

Jilly Jewel- (Nor'East) If you are searching for a new mauve to add to your garden this one should be on your list. It has pink-mauve blooms with deeper shading on the outer petal edge. It will have a tendency to spray if not disbudded.

Marie Jeannette- As a huge fan of *Irresistible* I look forward to getting this sport found by Ira Fletcher. The one review I read on this plant states that the petal count (24-28) is lower than *Irresistible* and the plant does not possess the its vigor. Unfortunately no source is currently marketing the plant. Robbie Tucker says he is considering for introduction in 2003.

Marilyn Wellan- (Mitchie's Minis and More) This is a lovely light pink that resembles *Linville*. It produces a high center with excellent form. If it holds well it should compete.

Merlot- (Nor'East) This A.O.E. for 2002 adds to Frank Bernadella's outstanding introductions. There is probably more positive buzz about this dark red mini with a white reverse the any other introduction this year. It is on everyone's "must have" list of exhibition minis. It will be a great addition for a much needed new red.

Michel Cholet- (Bridges, The Mini Rose Garden) This A.O.E. for 2001 has already made quite an impact on showing. Its rich apricot color is unusual in the mini class. It has dark green foliage, which greatly compliments the bloom. It grows well on a medium bush that is disease resistant. My bush

Peach delight- (Nor'East) Only new Mini-Flora introduction this year from Nor'East. This rose won the New England rose trials in 2002 so it should be quite hardy. Classes as an apricot the catalog describes good exhibition potential- no information yet available from growers.

Roxie- (www.rosemania.com) If you read Robbie Tucker description of this variety on his website it has many characteristics like the mini *Kristin*- "pinpoint centers, with petals that snap into place when manipulated and exhibition form bloom that rarely opens past show stage". Wow! If this solid orange variety lives up to the buildup it should be one to watch.

Ruffian- (no known commercial carrier at this time) Hybridized by David Clemons, an amateur hybridizer this unusual salmon orange mini is supposed to have great form with pinpoint centers. It may not give such good form in extreme heat. It only has 17 petals and timing it for show will be essential.

Spring's A Comin'- (www.rosemania.com) Pink blend hybridized by Whit Wells.

Tennessee Sunrise- (www.rosemani.com) Hybridized by Whit Wells it is a deep yellow-orange with a bright red edge. If the form hold it should due well in the Mini-Flora class.

Tiffany Lite- (Kimbrew Walter, Bridges Roses) This sport of Tiffany Lynn has already made its mark by winning Queen and Best Mini-Flora at the 2001 Cleveland National Show. It has all the characteristics of its Mom- wonderful form, strong grower with lovely dark green foliage. Buy it if you can find it!

Sources

Bridges Roses (bridgesroses.com)
2734 Toney Rd.
Lawndale, NC 28090
(704) 538-9412

Waldo And Associates
28214 Glenwood Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(800) 468-4011

Kimbrew-Walter, Roses, Inc.
2001 VZ County Rd. 1219
Grand Saline, TX 75140-4755

The Mini Rose Garden (MiniRoseGarden.com)
P.O. Box 203
Cross Hill, SC 29332
(864) 998-4331

Mitchie's Roses and More
803 S. 373rd. St
Federal Way, WA 98003-7400
(253) 815-1072

Nor'East Miniature Roses, Inc.
58 Hammond St.
P.O. Box A
Rowley, MA 01969

Rosemania (Rosemania.com)
4020 Trail Ridge Dr.
Franklin, TN 37067
(888)-600-9665

Special Thanks to Jim Hering, Randy Lady, Sandy Lundberg, and Robbie Tucker for their contributions of knowledge and slides to this program.

Mighty Moe- (Mitchie's Minis and More) This mini took top honors as best micro miniature at the 2001 Fall Nationals in Cleveland. It is bright orange with hybrid tea form (an unusual characteristic for most micros). Whether it can compete with the "big guys" remains to be seen.

Mini Tango- (The Mini Rose Garden) This Michael Williams mini is on the cover of the 2002 catalog. The color is an attractive medium to deep pink with a yellow heart. I grew this variety in a pot in 2001. I did not get much size on the blooms. The form was good but holding potential for exhibition was poor. I will give it another year.

Mitchie's Gold- (Mitchie's Minis and More, The Mini Rose Garden) This is a promising deep yellow that Michael Williams compares to a *June Laver* on "a much stronger plant with longer stems". Although the petal count is low (19-25 petals) it is said to hold pinpoint centers until fully opened.

Ruby- (Bridges, Nor'East) This medium red was an A.O.E. winner in 2001. Frank Bernadella hybridized it. It can have good form but with only 19 petals it is quick to open. The size of the bloom is somewhat small which may work against it.

Ruby Baby- (Bridges) This orange-red sport of *Hot Tamale* with many of the same characteristics. It has a small bloom with good form that maintains its color well. Some exhibitors say that it is actually better than *Hot Tamale*.

Sam Trivett- (www.rosesbydesign@earthlink.net, Kimbrew Walter) A highly recommended apricot-white variety by many of the top growers. This variety has many petals and grows on a hardy upright plant with dark foliage.

Soroptimist International- (Kimbrew Walter) Hybridized by Frank Bernadella this mini has made quite a splash in other districts in the past two years. It formerly went under the name *Astra*. It is a large yellow bloom with pink edges. Despite its large size it will remain in the miniature classification. The bush likes room to grow and is a hardy plant.

White Chocolate- (Tiny Petals Nursery) This white sport of *Jean Kenneally* may be one to watch. It should be a vigorous grower and produce competitive sprays.

Mini-Floras

Aliena- (www.rosemania.com) I don't know much about this yellow petaled with red edge variety from Robbie Tucker. In the catalog it is described as having good exhibition form

Charmed- (Bridges) Described in the catalog as a soft sand color with good exhibition form I have not had any feedback on this variety. Dennis has said that this is his favorite of his Mini-Flora introductions for 2002.

Checkmate!- (www.rosemania.com) Prolific orange pink variety. The color changes throughout the opening process going from strawberry to orange pink for exhibition and ending with a creamed center when fully opened.

Delores Marie- (www.rosemania.com) A new mauve addition to the Mini-Flora class this variety is said by Robbie Tucker to have "exhibition form at 1/2 - 3/4 open and resemble an OGR when fully opened". It has a high petal count (40) and promises to be highly fragrant.

Ferrin- (www.rosemania.com) This pure pink has good exhibition forms which has good holding ability. It can grow very large bloom if over fertilized.

Fontana- (Bridges) A light apricot from Dennis Bridges' first Mini-Flora introductions. No feedback on this variety yet.

Lady E'owyn- (www.Rosemania.com) This creamy petalled rose with dark pink edges has good exhibition form. The many petals allow for manipulation by the exhibitor. It sometimes produces a bull-nosed center and often has a strong green edge around the outer petals. *Tiffany Lynn* is still my preferred variety of this color class.

Patriot's Dream- (The Mini Rose Garden) Dark red blooms with a white reverse this plant resembled *Chelsea Belle* in my garden. It has good form but did not produce many blooms in its first year.

Mitchie's Roses and More

Micro-miniatures

Mighty Moe - ob - The vivid orange of these small, exhibition form blooms is eye catching! A favorite for the small arrangements

Snow Bunny - white - This very small white micro has high centered exhibition blooms that are about 1/2 inch in diameter. The plant has medium green foliage and grows 12 - 24 inches. A must for the arranger who loves to work with very small blooms.

Dot Com - dark red - This micro, a bit larger than other micros, has dark red blooms with a silvery pink reverse. The upright bush has dark green foliage and grows to 12 - 14 inches. The exhibition blooms are an arrangers delight for small arrangements.

Hi - yb - Exhibition form micro blooms of 1/3 to 1/2 inch have pink petal edges and are an excellent choice for the very small arrangement. The compact bush grows to 12 inches.

Ralph T - my - Classic single presentation. The blooms open to a beautiful medium yellow. This vigorous climber with medium green, semi-glossy foliage can grow to 3 feet.

Miniatures

Aletha June - lp - Exquisite light pink blooms the have exhibition qualities. The bush has a spreading growth habit, and has medium green semi-glossy leaves.

Mitchie's Gold - dy - The high centered deep yellow blooms with hybrid tea exhibition form quill themselves at exhibition stage. Usually borne singly, but will form sprays. The bush is upright and vigorous with medium green semi-glossy foliage and grows to 15 - 18 inches.

Sassy Girl - op - An abundance of orange pink flowers on a very hardy plant. The well formed very double blooms are usually borne one to a stem. The plant is upright with very attractive medium green foliage.

Mike Peterson - ly - The light yellow, well formed exhibition blooms are usually borne one to a stem, and will hold its pin point center exceptionally well. The plant is upright with very attractive medium green foliage.

Miss Alice - m - Light mauve, high centered blooms with over 35 petals have exhibition quality. Blooms usually come in a spray or one to a stem on an upright bush with dark green glossy foliage.

Marilyn Wellan - lp - Elegant buds gracefully open into light pink flowers that have hybrid tea form with a very high center. This along with a nice fruity fragrance. The exhibition quality blooms are set on a plant that has luscious medium green foliage and grows to about 18 - 20 inches in height.

Scott - mr - This lovely medium red is a very vigorous climber growing to 3 feet or more in a short time. An abundance of blooms on a very hardy plant.

MOEjo-netsu - dp - The vivid magenta pink flowers on this attractive plant really catch your eye. The exhibition blooms are borne mostly single on an upright bush with dark green foliage. An excellent choice for a collection of blooms.

Anne Hering - r - Striking high centered exhibition blooms that start as a dusty pink and slowly change to a pale russet at exhibition stage. There is a slight spicy fragrance to the exquisite blooms. The compact bush has medium green semi-glossy foliage and grows to 15 - 18 inches.

Becky Adams - m - Beautiful high centered exhibition quality mauve blooms that show red tips as the bloom matures. The spreading bush has dark green semi-glossy foliage and grows to 18 - 24 inches in height.

Jo - op - An abundance of orange pink flowers on a very hardy plant. The well formed very double blooms are usually borne one to a stem. The plant is very hardy with a slightly sprcading growth habit with very attractive dark green foliage. Named after a very special lady.

Mini-Floras

Alexa - dp - A beautiful deep pink that becomes a lighter shade of pink as the petals unfurl. The blooms have a very high center and are exhibition quality, but exhibitors will want to cut tight. The exquisite blooms are set off by the dark green foliage on a tall spreading plant.

Plants are \$5.00 each plus shipping.

Call me to order - (253) 815-1072 or e-mail at mjmoe@seanet.com Mitchie's Roses and More