

# 'RUBY BABY'

Rose of the Month, July 2001

By Dona English, Mesa-East Valley Rose Society



One of the most exciting new miniatures among the many being tried in our Zone 9/13 Arizona garden is **'Ruby Baby'**. A sport of **'Hot Tamale'**, this vibrant miniature was found by Lonnie and Ruby Christopher of South Carolina in their own garden. Registered in 2000, **'Ruby Baby'** is being introduced by Bridges Roses ([www.bridgesroses.com](http://www.bridgesroses.com)).

**'Ruby Baby'** is a delightful orange-red exhibition form rose with 17 to 25 petals. The blooms average about 1 ¾" across and are mildly fragrant. Blooms are a wonderful, bright color that holds well in the heat. While usually growing one to a stem, they can also make excellent sprays. The plants here that have been in the ground only three months have been covered with blooms, even in the hottest weather. Canes are firm, strong and upright. The plants appear to be disease resistant and are extremely floriferous. There is a lovely glow at the bottom of the petals that catches one's eye and doesn't let you walk by without stopping.

The growth of the three bushes has been excellent and shows strong, healthy dark green foliage and good proportion. They are also quick to repeat bloom. While reported to grow 12" to 18", my estimation is that in our more moderate climate they will fill out both taller and wider. It is always great to find a miniature that can serve equally well as a border or landscape plant and also performs well for exhibition. While **'Hot Tamale'** is certainly one of everyone's favorites, **'Ruby Baby'** should definitely find room at the top of the charts!