

In the accompanying graphic, I continue my annual summary of the top exhibition roses of the desert based on the results for the last six years. I use a six-year period because it takes longer in the desert for an exhibition rose to become established in the show results.

To recount the methodology of this study, I have compiled the show results for the past six years of all Arizona shows to record the royalty winners for hybrid teas, miniature and miniflora roses. I have also included the Las Vegas Valley show, the Desert Rose Society show in California and other shows in California and New Mexico in which Arizona or desert-area exhibitors have won. In every case, I included only roses grown by residents of Arizona and other desert areas in Las Vegas and California. In particular, I have noted the results of members of the Desert Rose Society in California, who have been making a mark in desert shows.

In tabulating points, I used the same system used for my annual compilation in the American Rose magazine. Six points are awarded to a Queen, five for King and four for Princess. An additional three points are awarded to roses on the Court of Honor, as well as any roses staged in the principal challenge classes of the District and National shows.

In the hybrid teas, "Gemini", the No. 1 exhibition rose nationally, has increased its lead as the top exhibition rose in the desert. In 2007, "Gemini" recorded three more Queens in desert shows, making seven in the last two years. "Marilyn Monroe" has taken over the No. 2 position, moving ahead of its parent, "St Patrick". Both of these roses perform exceptionally well in the desert because of the high amount of chlorophyll in their petals.

"Veteran's Honor", now ranked No. 4, continues as the best red show rose in the desert. Another red rose that does well here is "Black Magic", ranked No. 6, compared to a national

ranking of No. 12. It is interesting to compare it with the dark red rose "Dublin", ranked No. 10 nationally, but nowhere to be seen on desert show tables. Here, "Dublin" burns on the edges and is about the size of a walnut, while "Black Magic", as a florist rose, has a great deal of substance and loves the desert sunshine. A newer red rose, "Let Freedom Ring", debuts on the list at No. 18 and also performs well in the desert.

"Hot Princess", the hot pink florist rose, continues to perform very well in the desert, moving into the No. 5 slot, slightly better than its No. 7 national ranking. "Signature", ranked No. 8 nationally, is No. 7 in the desert, where it can present exceptional size and form. It is, however, a fussy rose with tender foliage that cannot be recommended to the casual gardener.

As before, there are several florist roses on the list, including "Hot Princess", the pure white, "Crystalline", the orange-pink, "Raphaela", and the orange blend, "Exotica". All have desert rankings above their national rankings.

Of note, "Moonstone", the No. 2 exhibition hybrid tea nationally, is ranked only No. 10 in the desert, because it has too many petals to develop as it does in cooler areas. Its sister seedling, "Cajun Moon", which has fewer petals and more consistent form in the desert, continues ahead of it as No. 8. "Cajun Sunrise" is new to the list at No. 14 and has established itself as a fine sunshine rose.

Off the charts, there is absolutely nothing new on the horizon for the desert, reflecting the paucity of good new exhibition form hybrid teas introduced in recent years.

In the miniatures, "Fairhope", continues as No. 1 in the desert, by a healthy margin, although nationally it has slipped to No. 2. "Miss Flippins" and "Dancing Flame" continue as Nos. 2 and 3, respectively, both considerably higher than their national ratings.

The extraordinary miniature, Bee's Knee's" winner of the 2005 ARS Members' Choice Award, and now the No. 1 exhibition miniature rose nationally, continues to perform well on the desert show tables and is up another notch to No. 6. It is also a superb garden rose that I cannot recommend too highly.

Also rising fast is "Arcanum", which recorded three desert Queens in 2007. It is up nine positions to No. 10 on the list. Heading in the opposite direction is "Incognito", down four, and "Behold", which has gone missing from the desert show tables and is down nine slots to No. 15.

There are now four minifloras on the list, as the desert states continues to lead the nation in recognizing a separate court for minifloras. The leading miniflora continues to be "Conundrum", at No. 4, which is actually tied in points with my own creation "Butter Cream", which is No. 5. For those curious, I break such ties by reference to the number of Queens recorded, and if tied there, by the number of Kings. "Dr John Dickman", continues to do well on the desert show tables and has moved up four spots to No. 7.

New to the list this year is my own creation, "Peter Cottontail". A sister seedling to "Butter Cream", that debuts at a lucky No. 13. Also new, at No. 14, is "Nancy Jean". The latter is registered as a miniature rose, though its size in the desert rivals the minifloras. Judges appear to have accepted this fact and to appreciate its excellent form and unusual tan color.

On the horizon, three more minifloras are approaching the list, including "Class of '73", "Foolish Pleasure" and "Dr Troy Garrett". The latter is a deep red that is showing considerable vigor and excellent form in our garden. Of note, the No. 3 miniflora nationally, "Tiffany Lynn", is absent from the desert show tables. Here, it typically has the form of a cabbage and is a wild and rank grower.

Most of the Roses on these lists are excellent garden specimens, especially for those who like cut blooms of the classic hybrid tea form. In nearly all cases, Dona and I continue to see a dramatic difference in roses grown on 'Fortuniana' understock and continue to recommend it highly.

**TOP EXHIBITION ROSES OF THE DESERT  
SIX YEAR SUMMARY (2002-2007)**

**Hybrid Teas/Grandifloras:**

Rank/Name	Intro	Pts	Q	K	P
1 Gemini	1999	119	9	4	3
2 Marilyn Monroe	2001	80	6	1	3
3 St. Patrick	1996	73	0	6	4
4 Veteran's Honor	1999	64	2	2	3
5 Hot Princess	2000	63	3	3	0
6 Black Magic	1997	55	1	1	2
7 Signature	1996	52	2	0	4
8 Cajun Moon	2001	51	2	2	2
9 Crystalline	1986	44	2	1	3
10 Moonstone	1998	38	1	1	0
11 Silverado	1987	32	2	0	2
12 Touch of Class	1984	32	1	1	0
13 Brooks' Red	2000	26	1	1	0
14 Cajun Sunrise	2000	25	1	0	1
15 Rosie O'Donnell	1999	20	0	0	2
16 Raphaela	1994	18	1	0	0
17 Exotica	1999	17	1	1	0
18 Let Freedom Ring	2005	16	0	2	0
19 Big Time	2001	14	0	1	0
20 Dolly Parton	1984	14	0	1	0

**Miniatures/Minifloras:**

Rank/Name	Class	Intro	Pts	Q	K	P
1 Fairhope	Min	1989	132	9	9	6
2 Miss Flippins	Min	1997	93	5	2	5
3 Dancing Flame	Min	2001	83	7	3	2
4 Conundrum	MinFl	2002	65	9	1	0
5 Butter Cream	MinFl	2003	65	1	6	2
6 Bee's Knees	Min	1998	64	4	3	1
7 Dr John Dickman	MinFl	2002	51	3	3	3
8 Incognito	Min	1995	51	1	3	0
9 Sam Trivitt	Min	2000	50	0	4	0
10 Arcanum	Min	2000	41	3	2	1
11 Kristin	Min	1992	38	0	2	1
12 Glowing Amber	Min	1997	38	0	0	2
13 Peter Cottontail	MinFl	2004	31	1	1	2
14 Nancy Jean	Min	2004	29	1	1	0
15 Behold	Min	1997	28	1	1	2
16 Soroptimist Int'l	Min	1995	28	1	0	1
17 Irresistible	Min	1990	28	0	2	0
18 Hilde	Min	2001	26	0	1	0
19 Jilly Jewel	Min	1996	21	0	0	0
20 Marie Jeanette	Min	2003	19	1	0	1