

Rose of the Month: Erin Alonso

by Peter Alonso, Jr.



In the spring of 2000, I found an exciting and beautiful sport on my Bees Knees plant. The color is pure yellow and it has very good exhibition form! I was thinking it was too good to be true so I propagated and tested many plants for several years to make sure it's the real deal. It's the real deal alright! The plants became even more impressive as they became more established, producing lots of awesome blooms on long stems. It is a tall grower very much like its mommy, the superb and incredible 'Bees Knees'. I decided to name it for my little daughter Erin Alonso who was then only 3 years old. Her favorite color was and still is yellow. In the fall of 2002, I decided to put it to the test and entered it at rose shows. As registration was still pending, I entered it in the best seedling/sport category. The judges liked it well enough to award it the Best Seedling/Sport trophy two weekends in row! Robin, Erin and I were thrilled!

I gave some test plants to a few of my exhibitor friends around the country last spring and so far I've heard a lot of positive reports. They told me hot weather doesn't slow it down and they like the exhibition form. My good friend Steve Singer from Wisconsin was the first one to officially win with 'Erin Alonso' on September 12, 2003. It was part of his beautiful Ralph S. Moore District Award winner. Several weeks later, another friend in Florida, Ray Guillebeau, also had 'Erin Alonso' in his magnificent winning Ralph S. Moore award. I was very happy when they told me about their success.

I've had very good success in winning with 'Erin Alonso' in the last three local rose shows I've attended. It won the Mini King, Best English Box, Best Floater and it was part of my winning Artist's Palette in Santa Clarita. At the Los Angeles Show, it was in the court of honor, it won the Best English Box and it was part of my winning Artist's Palette entry once again. At the Orange County show, it won the best mini English Box once again which makes it three English Box wins three weekends in a row! I'm so happy to announce that three nurseries will be carrying 'Erin Alonso' in their catalog. It is available on its own roots from Almost Heaven Roses Nursery in North Carolina. If you prefer it budded, it is available from Wisconsin Roses on Multiflora. It will also be available from Cool Roses Nursery in Florida as a budded or grafted plant on fortuniana later in 2004. I think you are going to like 'Erin Alonso'. Give it a try. I've been growing and showing miniatures for many years now and it is one of the best minis I grow. Otherwise, I would not have named it after my dearest little daughter.