



American Rose Society

News Release

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AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

The **Award of Excellence**, a designation of merit given to new miniature and mini-flora rose varieties of superior quality and marked distinction, was established by the American Rose Society Board of Directors thirty five years ago. Since the inception of the Award, there have been 106 AOE winners.

Unnamed seedlings or sports of miniature or Mini-Flora varieties are submitted by commercial and amateur hybridizers for evaluation for two years in nine AOE public test gardens, spaced geographically across the United States. Each public garden has an AOE supervisor and five evaluators. Entries are scored on eleven criteria four times during each growing season. At the end of the trial period, Awards of Excellence are given to deserving seedlings, with a maximum of five per year.

The 2009 AOE winners announced in Oklahoma City, OK on May 31, 2008 are **Deja Blu**, **Ambiance** and **Warm and Fuzzy**.

Deja Blu ('BENwise')

This "Pick-able Patio Rose" is a mauve Mini-Flora with light fragrance and good exhibition form. It should do well as a garden rose and on the show table. **Deja Blu's** habit is upright; it is vigorous and tall. **Deja Blu** does equally well in the ground or a patio planter. Its cut flower breeding makes for long lasting blooms that repeat quickly and are set off by very dark green holly-like foliage. It was hybridized by Frank Benardella and will be introduced by Nor'East Miniature Roses.

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DEJA BLU



Ambiance ('BENSiete')

Another Mini-Flora from Frank Benardella which he also describes as a "Pick-able Patio Rose". **Ambiance** is apricot and really catches your eye with its perfectly formed blooms. It is a tall plant with large blooms and foliage. It performs well in the ground or in a planter, and the more blooms you cut, the quicker it is to repeat. This rose should be a winner on the show bench or your kitchen table. It will be introduced by Nor'East Miniature Roses.

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AMBIANCE



Warm and Fuzzy ('WEKhasamiro')

Its color is a warm red, which refuses to fade or blue, and its buds are pointed to ovoid, covered with soft "moss". Thus, it gets its name. **Warm and Fuzzy** is a miniature of medium height with a rounded to slightly spreading habitus, deep glossy green foliage and fully double blooms (more than 25 petals) borne in shapely clusters. It has a strong sweet juniper fragrance when you rub the fuzzy buds. It was hybridized by Tom Carruth and will be introduced by Weeks Roses.

(MORE)

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WARM AND FUZZY



The **American Rose Society** has been the premier organization devoted exclusively to the cultivation of roses in the United States for more than 115 years. With approximately 14,000 members nationwide, the ARS supports 330 local societies offering rose-related activities and information at the community level. To receive more information about **AOE Winners**, growing great roses, or joining the **American Rose Society**, write: American Rose Society, P.O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA, 71130-0030 or call 1-800-637-6534, Ext. 108. You can also visit our website: www.ars.org or e-mail the society at ars@ars-hq.org

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