

# ***Now you've seen the show - fancy a go?***

***Growing roses for the Malvern Spring Show is not as hard as you might think***

***Firstly it's import to grow the varieties that will be likely to bring you success on the show benches - that's the easy part - just look around today's show and see which varieties are winning and which of them appeal to you. I'd be inclined to try miniature as a first step as they are virtually bombproof.***

***Most of the varieties on display will be available by mail order from***

***C & K Jones  
Golden Fields Nursery  
Barrow Lane  
Tarvin  
Cheshire  
CH3 8JF***

***Tel: 01829 740663***

***Email: info@jonestherose.co.uk***

***R. V. Roger Ltd  
Malton Road  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
YO18 7JW***

***Tel : 01751 472226***

***Email: sales@rvroger.co.uk***

***Ordering roses from either of these suppliers will ensure that you have top quality bushes in November ready to pot up and place in a cold greenhouse in December. Use 10 litre flower buckets with some added drainage holes, these can be obtained from your local florist or supermarket. Proprietary peat based compost is perfectly adequate, one with a small percentage of added John Innes compost is probably best. After planting, giving them a good watering and a light prune there is very little left to do except sit back and wait for them to grow. It's always a good idea to try to keep the greenhouse frost-free. A polycarbonate greenhouse can be kept frost free quite easily using a small thermostatically controlled fan heater. If you have a glass greenhouse then bubble insulation will probably be required to keep your roses growing well. Some exhibitors will tell you that grow-lights are also necessary but it's perfectly feasible to grow roses for Malvern without them. By mid February your roses should be looking something like this***





***By late April most of the buds on the roses should be showing colour, the side buds should be removed from the stems that are to be used for single stems and likewise the terminal (end) buds should be removed from the stems that are to bear a cluster of blooms. Watch out for any pests looking for a free feed on the tender young buds and dispatch them with whatever method you prefer.***

***Because the roses grow at a much slower pace than they would do in the summer garden, the blooms take longer to mature and will be at (and remain at) the perfect stage for longer; this makes things much easier for exhibiting. To enter, and win the Malvern Championship may require you to grow up to fifty roses. This number should provide you with more than enough blooms to enter all classes at the show. A more modest number of bushes even as few as four or five bushes should provide enough blooms to enter a few of the classes. Once you try and have some success you'll want to grow more, you ought to consider this public service announcement - **WARNING GROWING EXHIBITION ROSES CAN BECOME OBSESSIVE!*****

***Growing roses for Malvern is not rocket science but does require a reasonable slice of good luck. Sometimes you will get lucky and your roses will flower at the right time, sometimes they may not. When you do get lucky the roses really do reward you. This was the basket of Irresistible, which won Best Exhibit in Show last year; with all the warm spring weather we've had I'm sure that we'll see even better roses this year.***

***Go on, have a go yourself; you will be astounded at how rewarding it can be!***

