

Landscape Evaluation of 2009 AARS Winners – 2008 Results

Trial Location: Burden Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Background/Introduction:

The 2009 All-America Rose Selection (AARS) winners are Pink Promise, Cinco de Mayo and Carefree Spirit.

‘**Carefree Spirit**’ has deep-red flowers with white accents. It is a landscape shrub and was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte and will be introduced by Conard-Pyle. ‘**Pink Promise**’, a hybrid tea with large, pink flowers and dark-green foliage, was introduced by Coiner Nursery. A percentage of sales from this rose will be donated to National Breast Cancer Foundation. ‘**Cinco de Mayo**’ has lavender flowers with a hint of rusty red-orange. It is a floribunda rose and was hybridized by Tom Carruth and introduced by Weeks Roses.

A landscape study on these three cultivars was initiated in spring 2008 at the LSU AgCenter’s Burden Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The purpose of this study was to determine the overall landscape performance of these new AARS winners as measured by visual quality ratings and blackspot susceptibility.

Materials and Methods:

Roses (#1 grade bareroot) were received in February 2008 and were temporarily planted into 3 gallon containers. Roses were then planted in late March 2008. Plants were spaced 5’ apart in 48” wide raised (8”) rows consisting of native soil (Olivier silt loam, pH 6.4) and were located in full sun. Plants were fertilized with StaGreen Nursery Special 12-6-6 at the rate of one pound nitrogen per 1000 square feet bed area at planting and in July. The planting was replicated. Plants were irrigated via a drip system as needed to prevent stress and mulched with 3” baled pine straw. Pine straw mulch additions have been maintained throughout the study. Fungicide and insecticide have not been applied. Amaze and spot applications of glyphosate were used for weed control. Plants were not pruned or deadheaded during the 2008 growing season.

Data:

Visual Quality Ratings – 2008

	4/15	6/15	8/15	10/1	Overall
Carefree Spirit	3.8	4.4	4.4	3.8	4.10
Cinco de Mayo	4.0	4.4	4.4	3.7	4.13
Pink Promise	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.05

Visual quality ratings based on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1=dead; 2=below average landscape performance; 3=average landscape performance; 4=above average landscape performance; 5=superior landscape performance.

Blackspot Ratings – 2008

	Summer	Fall
Carefree Spirit	1.0	1.7
Cinco De Mayo	1.5	3.7
Pink Promise	3.3	4.5

Blackspot ratings based on a scale from 1 to 6 where 1 = 0% foliage with disease, 2 = 1-10% foliage with disease, 3 = 11-25% foliage with disease, 4 = 26-50% foliage with disease, 5 = 51-75% foliage with disease, and 6 = 76-100% foliage with disease.

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