

Time for the 2015 Edition of Roses In Review

Have you ever wondered how the roses listed in *The ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses* get their ratings? As part of the American Rose Society's educational mission, each year the Roses in Review committee chooses hundreds of newer rose varieties found in commerce around the country to be evaluated on growth habit, fragrance, and disease resistance by local society members. These results are published annually in an effort to help our members and the rose growing public to better grow America's floral emblem, the rose.

Roses in Review forms, which include the listing of those roses chosen to be reviewed this year, were published in the July/August edition of *The American Rose*. The form also included detailed instructions on how to evaluate your roses. We need the input from all the rose growers in the North Central District in order to have reliable ratings. Remember, Consulting Rosarians, you are strongly encouraged to complete Roses in Review.

All the results for roses with at least 10 reviews from across the country will be published in the 2016 Handbook for Selecting Roses and summarized in the January 2016 issue of *The American Rose*. Complete results for roses evaluated in 2014 for our district are available at www.ncdrose.org along with the 2015 form. To make it easier for every rose grower in the NCD to participate in RIR, the ARS has again put a box on the first page to check if you do not grow any of the roses listed. This will give the committee more information on exactly where this year's varieties are and are not being grown. If you have family and friends who grow roses, pass on this information to them and ask them to complete the paper forms or complete the online version. The process of evaluating and rating a rose takes less than five minutes of your time. The more ratings we have the truer the picture will be of how that particular variety does in our unique climatic conditions.

Paper copies of the 2015 RIR forms should also be available at your society's meetings soon. ARS members will have paper forms in the magazine and forms are available at <http://www.rose.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2015RIR.pdf> to print out or Click RESOURCES on the ARS Home Page the the link for the form is at the top of the page. As you walk through your garden this summer, why not plan to take notes on a blank RIR form in July, again in August and then once more sometime around September 15th. This will give you a good basis on which to make your final ratings and leave you plenty of time to complete your evaluations before the September 26th deadline. Online filing is fast and easy if you have your notes in front of you. Those of you without computer can complete the paper form and mail it to me and I will enter it online for you. REMEMBER ***ONLY EVALUATE ROSES YOU GROW ON THE CULTIVAR LIST AND GIVE ALL THE ROSES ON YOUR LIST A GARDEN RATING.

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