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Weather

Amsterdam ☀ 10°C

World Clock

- 09:47 Amsterdam
- 03:47 Miami
- 10:47 Nairobi
- 02:47 Quito
- 15:47 Beijing

Quote of the Week

"Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." Samuel Ullman, writer and poet

Latest News :

[Wilma Mesman writes book about funeral flowers](#)

AIPH/FCI "International Grower of the Year 2009"

ZARAGOZA, Spain, September 15, 2009: During the 61st Annual Congress of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), six grower candidates from six countries participated in the first "International Grower of the Year" contest. Doeke Faber from the AIPH, Jaap N. Kras from FloraCulture International and invited secretary Gerard de Wagt from the VKC Permanent Judging Committee organized the event in cooperation with national organizations in Belgium (AVBS), Colombia (Asocolflores/Ceniflores), England (NFU), Germany (Taspo/ZVG), The Netherlands (Horticultural Business Prize) and Spain (FEPEX).

The Award Ceremony took place during the AIPH Gala Dinner on Tuesday 15 September in the grand city hall of Zaragoza, Spain, which was the host city of the 2009 AIPH Congress.

All six nominees, who are each the winners of their respective national contests, were highly commended by the international jury members with the first prize and Gold Rose awarded to Marc van Hulle from the forest nursery Sylva van Hulle in Belgium. The Silver Rose winner is the flower producer and exporter Silvino Salguero from Flores de Tenjo Ltda in Columbia. Third prize and the Bronze Rose goes to Pieter van den Berk from the semi-mature and mature trees specialist Van den Berk Nurseries in the Netherlands. Honorary plaques were awarded to Geoff Caesar from Bransford Webbs Plant Company, the wholesale nursery of garden plants (nursery stock) in England; Markus Wittmann from the pot plant nursery Gartenbau Wittmann in Germany; and Joan Roig Mas from Grup Roig, the ornamental plant nurseries (specialised in geranium) in Spain.

Each of the candidates were judged on four main criteria; (1) economic performance, (2) sustainable business strategy (including social responsibility), (3) innovation and (4) overall company image. The jury's motivations are summarised below:



Marc van Hulle from the Belgian nursery Sylva van Hulle proudly receives the Gold Rose from AIPH President Doeke Faber.

Gold Rose

Sylva van Hulle from Belgium, represented by Mr Marc van Hulle

- A well-balanced management attitude
- Development of a detailed program for personnel management
- Clearly modern strategy and market vision
- Sustainability program under the 3Ps – People (safety and comfort in the workplace), Planet (water catchments, mechanical weed control, environmental-friendly cultivation methods) and Profit (guarantee of quality)
- Innovation in product assortment with a strict accent on quality delivered



The Silver Rose was presented to Silvino Salguero from Flores de Tenjo in Colombia by the Mayor of Zaragoza.

Silver Rose

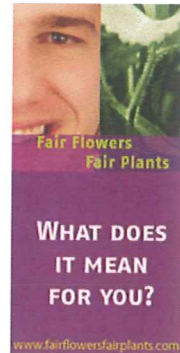
Flores de Tenjo from Colombia, represented by Mr Silvino Salguero

- Consistent and high level of personnel care, training and education
- Initiative in the breeding of varieties suited to local growing conditions
- Effective environmental practices, in particular the efficient use of water

Bronze Rose

Van den Berk Nurseries from The Netherlands, represented by Mr Pieter van den Berk

- Engineering innovations to complement progressive production techniques in a specialised business
- Compliance with environmental standards
- Professional marketing and promotion aspects (e.g. Website, Tree Book, Guides and Newsletter)



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FCI Partnership



Honorary Plaques (3)

Bransford Webbs Plant Company from England, represented by Mr Geoff Caesar

- Reputation of products in the market
- Dynamic and strong management style with emphasis on personnel input and creating a team spirit
- Achievement of environmental accreditation

Gartenbau Wittmann from Germany, represented by Mr Markus Wittmann

- Continual modernisation of the company, adapting to specific market opportunities
- Close attention to customer demands
- Operational management actions to minimise costs and increase revenues

Group Roig from Spain, represented by Mr Joan Roig Mas

- Professional representation of the sector through technical customer services
- Breeding innovation and research collaboration for genetic improvement
- Environmental and social responsibilities are undertaken seriously

A special thank you goes to the members of the international jury, who represented the national associations of the individual country candidates:

- Gery Heungens, AVBS Belgium
- Augusto Solano, Asocolflores Colombia
- Lionel Mills, NFU England
- Karl Heinz Compes, ZVG Germany
- Rob Bogers, ISHS The Netherlands
- Josep Pages, Girona Association of Nurseries Spain

Chairman: Doeke Faber

Secretariat: Gerard de Wagt

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