

Reprint from:  
Robert L. Whitaker  
*The Rose Leaf*  
Nashville Rose Society  
May 2001

**ROSE OF THE MONTH:**  
**ELINA**

**HT Light Yellow 1984**  
**Synonym: Peapouce**

At some point in time in this series, the writer must say a kind word about hybrid teas--the darling of America's love affair with roses. This is the month, but it has to meet my same criteria of being disease resistant, winter hardy, and easy to grow to make listing in this elite company. The two best plants of HTs in my rose garden sit side by side—'Elina' and Mr. Lincoln. 'Elina' has been pruned down to 3'-0" high and 3'-0" in diameter at the present, and it did not have winter protection this year, although in its earlier tender years, I usually draped a large styrofoam chest over it.

A few years ago, during one of Tennessee's cool springs, 'Elina' won Queen of Show three successive weeks in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville (one of my plants was Queen in Nashville). The exhibitors of 'Elina' say "I gave it away because it does not give me show blooms consistently". What they don't mention is it gave them more blooms per plant than they could ever use at one time.

'Elina' breaks the mold for yellows, being both disease resistant for a HT cultivar and reasonably hardy--especially benefiting from some form of winter protection in its early tender years of getting established. Bred for the English climate, 'Elina' shines in a cool spring and likes a parasol in the heat, meanwhile acting like the old woman who lives in a shoe, giving you more roses than you know what to do.

If you are one of those rose growers who wants the best of both worlds for garden and occasional exhibition use, 'Elina' is your girl.

Below are some other roses, including their ratings (10 being the highest), fitting the criteria useful for both garden and exhibition potential at certain times of the season.

Marijke Koopman	mp	8.9
Louise Estes	pb	8.0
Mr. Lincoln	dr	8.6
Papa Meilland	dr	7.4
Elizabeth Taylor	dp	8.8
Garden Party	wb	8.3

Mr. Lincoln and Papa Meilland will give in addition that desired fragrance everyone wants from a rose--umm, it smells so good!

We will save the serious discussion of just what the new stars are among HTs with a total focus on exhibition use until after the spring show season.

Robert L. Whitaker



**Elina**  
Rich Baer