



Column



Rosa Eskelund

Rosa Eskelund is the owner of RosesForever ApS, a rose grower and breeder in Denmark.

When the student is ready, the teacher is ready

In my breeding company, Roses Forever, I have for many years been the only one responsible of breeding new varieties of our successful Infinity and Roses Forever mini roses. We are developing many new roses each year, and my staff is constantly busy breeding in the nursery. But the planning of the breeding, the selection and test of the new varieties demands a great amount of expertise and not least a great passion for the roses.

To be more than one doing the same job is always preferable in a company, especially when talking about this kind of special assignment that needs a lot of training to become good at. But to let go of my expertise and letting others do the job requires both trust and faith in the person – the student. Our son, Anders, graduated as horticultural technician last year, and he is now responsible for the production of 130,000 mini roses a year in our nursery in Denmark. My husband Harley and I travel a lot to visit customers, fairs and rose gardens all around the world. It is of great pleasure to us that Anders is taking care of the nursery when we are travelling, and he grows with the challenge every day. The lessons he learns every day when we are not at home gives him a lot of valuable experience.

When writing this column I am in the South of France and this morning I just received an email from Anders, saying that he is planning on hiring an experienced person to take over some of his daily tasks. He wants to concentrate on learning how to do the breeding planning and selection in details. I was very happy to receive this information and I believe I am ready to share my knowledge with a person that has the right kind of motivation.

Anders has now left for Japan, where he is going to work at a big nursery growing Roses Forever and Infinity mini roses. He is going to learn the Japanese growers a lot, but is for sure also going to gain a lot of experience from this travel.

In 3 months our son will return with a lot of experience and new ideas on how to develop our nursery to meet the demands of the future and the constant competition in the market. And when he is back home, the important work of teaching him the planning of the breeding and selection of new rose varieties will get started for real. Both Anders and I are looking forward to this exiting work.

An old saying goes 'When the student is ready, the teacher is ready'. I believe this is so true. ●