

Over 600 varieties on show during Rose Festival

Flower lovers from Solan town got to witness thousands of roses in full bloom at the Rose Festival organized by Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni in the month of April. The University's Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture in collaboration with the Floriculture Students' Staff Association had organized the festival at the DR Thakur Rose Garden located on the campus.

With over 600 varieties of roses, both exotic and local, UHF'S DR Thakur Rose Garden holds the distinction of having the largest collection of roses in the state. Flower growers from the nearby areas, students from various government and private schools flocked to the university to get a glimpse of the garden.

Established in 2010 with external support from ICAR, the garden was expanded in the year 2011. Varieties like Hybrid tree, Floribunda, Polyantha, Miniatures, Ramblers, Cascades and climbers were among some of the rose varieties on display at the festival. Visitors were thrilled to see roses in different shades of red, pink, white, magenta, orange, yellow and green.

Dr HC Sharma, UHF Vice-Chancellor was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He inaugurated the event and opened the garden to the public. An exhibition on cut and dry flowers, pot plants, nursery and ornamental plants was organised. Progressive rose growers from Solan district were honoured by the university at the event. The farmers also shared their problems with the university scientists.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr HC Sharma called upon the scientists to work towards making Himachal a model state in floriculture. He was of the view that the different varieties of roses available at the university's rose garden were a goldmine for carrying out scientific research. He opined that by undertaking collaborative and interdisciplinary research, the university could work towards developing several new varieties for the flower growers and in turn, help to reach the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022. A book on 'Commercial and Nursery Production of Flowers' written by UHF scientists Dr YC Gupta, Dr SR Dhiman and Dr Puja Sharma was released at the event.

