

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In Thailand, roses have been used as cut-flowers for a long time using garden varieties. Later on cut-rose varieties have been introduced from abroad but only a few varieties adapted successfully to the new environment. Thailand needs new rose varieties for its climatic conditions and therefore needs to develop its own breeding technology. The breeding criteria and selection procedures should be based on temperature and humidity and resistance to diseases and pests, especially resistance to powdery mildew in summer, black spot in rainy season and downy mildew in winter, greater productivity (especially under plastic greenhouse), and good vase life.

Therefore, it is important to set the criteria for selection in order to find the suitable commercial varieties for Thai growers.