

LOVELY LOOKALIKES

> There's no denying the popularity of garden roses, particularly when it comes to weddings. Their softly curled petals open big and full, evoking femininity, luxury and romance — qualities that speak to many clients planning their nuptials. "Trends change over the years, but I haven't met a bride yet who doesn't love a garden rose," said Renee Tucci, AIFD, PFCI, owner of Valley Forge Flowers in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and Boca Blooms in Boca Grande, Florida. Florists across the country have echoed this observation, as well as the fact that many people cannot afford the premium flowers.

Fortunately, breeders have created some pretty decent doppelgängers: standard roses with wild, untamed shapes. (Some have a faint fragrance too.) At Proflora in Bogotá, Colombia, last fall, hundreds of visitors flocked to the Dümmen Orange booth, where they admired the garden rose lookalikes. Philippe Veys, the company's rose

manager, recalled growers' initial disdain for the roses' "imperfect" centers. "When we started showing products that looked like this five or six years ago, people told us they were ugly! Can you believe that?" he said. "Now, everyone's crazy about the garden style."

Thomas Sebenius, a freelance designer in Los Angeles, is delighted with these new varieties — and not just because they satisfy so many brides' tastes. "Since roses are so readily available at places other than a flower shop, it's important that professional florists differentiate themselves by choosing roses that deliver the 'wow factor,' whether that's through shape, color or scent," he said. "Plus, their mass and shape helps ground an arrangement, which designers will surely appreciate!"

Here are a few varieties to help elevate your designs. 🌹

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'PLAYA BLANCA'
Connectaflor



'CLASSIC SENSATION'
Dümmen Orange



'ALL 4 LOVE'
Dümmen Orange



'CARALINDA'
Dümmen Orange



'CRÈME DE LA CRÈME'
Rosaprima



'CATALINA'
Royal Flowers



'WEDDING SPIRIT'
Rosaprima



'LOVELY HEARTS'
Royal Flowers



'CARALUNA'
Royal Flowers