



Peter van de Pol Jr. next to the first mother plants in greenhouse in Kenya.



Dr. Ir. Peter van de Pol Sr. restless researcher in rose cultivars and the scent of flowers and plants.

New stockroots in cut roses promise important increases in quality and production

After twenty years of genetic improvement, including seven years of testing, the researcher and breeder Dr. Ir. Peter van de Pol senior is convinced that his new rootstocks for the cultivation of roses are ready to be marketed on a global scale. Along with his son Peter van de Pol junior they both handle the company Plant Research Overberg BV (PRO) in the Netherlands. Apart from the rootstocks for roses they also have deve-

loped new varieties of rosehips (Fair Jewel® and Plenty®) and Helleborus.

Dr. Van de Pol developed himself as a researcher at the University of Wageningen in the department of "Cultivation of horticultural plants" for more than 25 years. It was here where he specialized his research in the scent of flowers and plants. When his department was closed about fifteen years ago he established himself as an independent researcher.

The current success with the new rootstocks is also based on the genetic improvement program done during the researcher's days at the Wageningen University. Expectations on the new patterns are high because they signify important improvements in quality and production compared with typical patterns. Breeders speak of three new patterns: PRO-3, PRO -4 and PRO-5 and provide the following information. With the Pro-3 the cultivator will cut 10% to 20% more stems in comparison with Natal Briar. This percentage depends on the variety and the circumstances of the crop. The PRO-4 gives more and heavier stems. The third pattern, PRO-5, improves the quality with stems whose weight could be increased up to 20 %.

If expectations are met, the consequences will be felt in all producing countries for several reasons: popular varieties, but with a low level of production, will become more attractive to growers; the same production volume may be obtained cultivating at lower temperatures with less artificial lighting; more quality means better conservation. Breeders Dr. ir. Peter van de Pol and Peter van de Pol jr. have signed a contract with Moerheim for the production and marketing of the new patterns. Moerheim is responsible for the production and introduction into the entire American continent. In Europe the introduction will be carried out by Kordes Roses and in Africa by Stokman Roses. The video (youtube: Growing PRO rootstocks at Stokman Rozen Kenya) gives a good impression of the production of the new rootstocks and the mother plants.



Above: Image of the production of PRO-3 in Kenya. Below: health is a priority. Each rootstock has its own scissors.



Production of rootstocks in Kenya