



Rosa 'Happy Days'

# Creating the nation's favourite flower



Rosa 'Cardinal Hume'

No garden is complete without roses, but did you know it takes several years to create a new one? Philippa Pearson heads to Harkness Roses in Hitchin and finds out how to breed roses

**H**ARKNESS Roses and Hitchin have been synonymous since the late 1950s when the company moved down to Hertfordshire from Yorkshire. One of a dying breed of traditional companies, the Harkness family have been breeding roses since

1879, Gertrude Jekyll was a prominent customer, and today the work continues with brothers Philip and Robert, the fifth generation.

Harkness are renowned throughout the world for breeding reliable roses with outstanding flowering performance in ►