

Ecuador is a large cut flower producer with exports to the U.S.





We visited Terrafrut  
rose growers.



They produce roses under protected cover in ground beds.





Our host at the rose farm showing the very long-stemmed roses.





# Rose production.





Plants are supported on wires that run the length of the greenhouse.





Rose production starts from planting rooted cuttings of the rootstock.





The rootstock is produced from leafless hardwood cuttings rooted in small pouch containers.





They are planted in the beds at an angle and a wire is used to hold them in place.





When they reach an appropriate size, the cultivar rose is budded into the main stem of the rootstock.





Plants ready to be budded.





Recently budded plants.





The rootstock is left to grow into the aisle and temporarily left as a nurse plant to increase growth in the budded cultivar rose.





Rootstock in the aisles between the rose beds.





Rapidly growing budded cultivar rose.





Roses in production ready for harvest.





Some of the higher value roses were fitted with bud coverings.





The bud covers force the rose to be larger and have higher value.





Because of the extra labor, only roses of higher value like the reds are covered.





A worker harvesting roses.





The roses are protected in frames that are solid plastic to protect the petals and a porous mesh at the base that will allow water to the cut stems.





The protective frame is rolled over the roses.





Then the roses are placed in water until they are transported to the sorting room.













Roses are transported  
to the sorting room on  
a trolley system.





It takes very little effort to move the roses.





Roses queued to enter the sorting and packing room.





Once in the sorting shed, the roses get a pesticide treatment.





Treated roses drying before being sorted.





Roses are sorted based on flower size and stem length.





A measuring post for  
determining stem length.





This tool is used to remove the lower leaves and some of the thorns.





Once the grade is determined and the thorns removed, the roses are hung for packing.





Roses ready for packing.





The packing line.





Roses have packaging covering the petal end of the stems.





Packaged roses get a final dunk in a floral preservative.





Finally, the stem end of the roses gets a plastic sleeve.





Roses in plastic crates ready to move to the cooler.

