

Romeldale/CVM

The Romeldale originated at the beginning of the 20th century in California with a cross between prize-winning New Zealand Romney rams and an exceptional flock of Rambouillet ewes. That longwool × finewool combination has over the years initiated some splendid breeds, of which the Romeldale is one of the best, in part because of its texture and because of the color options that gradually appeared.

CVM refers to one of the Romeldale's color patterns. It stands for *California Variegated Mutant* and refers to a particular set of markings called *badgerface*.* For a time, CVMs were treated as a separate breed. Then additional color patterns showed up and were also accepted.

Handspinners supplied the primary reason that color was developed in the breed. Spinners are frequently surprised to learn



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that the breed is rare; this is because they provide the market for almost all of the wool, which is fine enough to be used next-to-the-skin and can serve as a gateway to the discovery of rare wools—and can also provide long-term pleasure.



* The color does not actually result from a mutation. It is a natural component of the genetics that was originally culled out in favor of the white wool.

Fleece weight	6–15 pounds (2.5–7 kg); yield 60–65 percent.
Staple length	3–6 inches (7.5–15 cm).
Fiber diameters	Breed standard calls for spinning counts of 60s–64s, roughly 21–25 microns.
Lock characteristics	Dense, soft, nicely crimped from base to tips, which are flat or minimally tapered. No kemp or hair.
Natural colors	Romeldales can be white, or shades of reddish to clear brown (dark to light), and a full span of grays through blacks, either mixed or solid. CVMs are multicolored with specific color patterning (badgerface criteria); the base color is often cream or gray.



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lock photos reproduced to the same scale