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[54] POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED 'HWD DAYLIGHT'

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[57] ABSTRACT

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A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named of HWD Daylight, characterized by its creamy white flower bracts; compact growth habit; large, showy cyathia; short crop time; and excellent postproduction longevity.

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A01H 5/00

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant, botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., known as the variety Dueday, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar named HWD Daylight.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor in Rheinberg, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to develop a new white variety with excellent postproduction longevity.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the inventor of the proprietary selection 89-3-6 as the male or pollen parent with the cultivar Regina (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,250, Poinsettia Plant '21-85') as the female or seed parent.

The cultivar HWD Daylight was discovered and selected by the inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany. Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Rheinberg, Germany, has shown that the unique features of this new Poinsettia are stabilized and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of HWD Daylight. These characteristics in combination distinguish HWD Daylight as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Creamy white flower bracts.
2. Compact growth habit.
3. Large, showy cyathia.
4. Short crop time.
5. Freely branching plant habit.
6. Excellent postproduction longevity.

In comparison to the parent cultivar Regina, the new Poinsettia is more compact in plant habit; has creamy white flower bracts versus white flower bracts; has much larger cyathia; and has longer postproduction longevity as foliage and cyathia are retained longer on the new Poinsettia compared to Regina. In comparison to the parent selection 89-3-6, the new Poinsettia has whiter flower bract color; flower bracts that overlap more; and flowers earlier.

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. The photograph comprises a top perspective view of a typical potted plant of HWD Daylight with one pinched plant in a 15-cm container.

The cultivar HWD Daylight has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, daylength and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe plants grown in

Rheinberg, Germany, under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures of 22° C. and night temperatures of 18° C. and light levels of 30,000 to 40,000 lux.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.
Commercial.—Poinsettia.
Cultivar.—'HWD Daylight'.

Parentage:

Male parent.—Proprietary selection 89-3-6.
Female parent.—'Regina' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,250, Poinsettia Plant Named '21-085').

Preparation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.
Time to initiate roots.—Summer: 27° C., 21 days.
Winter: 20° C., 28 days.

Rooting habit.—Fine, freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Vase-shaped.
Growth habit.—Freely branching and upright. Branching is enhanced by the removal of the apical shoot tip. Compact growth habit.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite. Size: Length: 9.5 to 11 cm. Width: 6.5 to 7 cm. Shape: Ovate. Tip: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire and sometimes lobed. Texture: Upper side: Velvety, glabrous. Under side: Pubescent at veins, very fine pubescence. Color: Young foliage upper side: Darker than 137A. Young foliage under side: 137C. Mature foliage top side: Darker than 137A. Mature foliage under side: 137C. Venation: Upper side: 144A. Under side: Main vein, 145C; laterals 137C. Petiole: Pattern: Pinnate. Length: 3.5 cm. Color: 144A.

Flower description:

Inflorescence type and habit.—Inflorescences are compounded corymbs of cyathia with colored flower bracts subtending the cyathia.

Natural flowering season.—Autumn/winter in Northern Hemisphere. Flower initiation and development can be induced under short day/long night conditions.

Time to flower.—7.5 to 8 weeks under short day/long night conditions.

Quantity of inflorescences.—10 to 15 cyathia per corymb.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: 28 to 29 cm. Height (depth): 5 to 7 cm.

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Flower bracts.—Attitude: Horizontal to stem axis.
Quantity of flower bracts: 16 per inflorescence. Size:
Length: 11 to 12 cm. Width: 7.5 to 8.5 cm. Shape:
Ovate. Tip: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Us-
ually entire, sometimes lobed. Texture: Upper side: 5
Satiny, glabrous. Under side: Smooth, glabrous.
Color: When opening: 4D. Mature, top side: 4D.
Mature, under side: 4D to 2D. Fading to: Flower
bract color does not fade. Venation: Upper side: 4D.
Under side: 145C. Petiole: Length: 16 to 18 cm. 10
Color: 137C.

Cyathia.—Quantity: 10 to 15 per corymb. Color, imma-
ture and mature: 144A. Size: Length: 1 cm. Width:
0.5 cm. Diameter of cyathia cluster: 3.5 cm. Sta-

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mens: Stamen number: 20 to 30 per cyathium.
Anther size: 0.5 mm. Anther color: 155D. Pollen
color: 12A. Pistils: Pistil number: 1 per cyathium.
Stigma color: 154D. Style color: In between 145B
and 145C. Style length: 3 to 4 mm. Ovary number:
3. Nectaries: Usually two per cyathium.

Disease resistance: No fungal, bacterial nor viral problems
observed.

Postproduction longevity: Generally more than 4 weeks
under interior conditions.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named
HWD Daylight, as illustrated and described.

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