



US00PP09789P

United States Patent [19]
Kramer

[11] Patent Number: Plant 9,789
[45] Date of Patent: Jan. 28, 1997

[54] HEATHER 'MELANIE'
[76] Inventor: Kurt Kramer, Edanmer Strase 26,
26188 Edewecht, Germany
[21] Appl. No.: 505,814
[22] Filed: Jul. 21, 1995
[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A01H 5/00
[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./54.1
[58] Field of Search Plt./54.1

Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Chernoff, Vilhauer, McClung &
Stenzel

[56] References Cited
PUBLICATIONS

Bud-Flowering Heathers, article by David McClintock,
published in The Garden, Nov. 1994, p. 543 (Table of
Contents attached).

[57] ABSTRACT
A new and distinct variety of *Calluna vulgaris* heather has
white flowers which remain as unopened buds through their
entire cycle from fall through early spring.

3 Drawing Sheets

1

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE
INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of bud flowering *Calluna vulgaris*. This new variety was
developed by Kurt Kramer at Edewecht, Germany from a
cross between two unpatented *Calluna vulgaris* developed
by Mr. Kramer; No. 83-15-1 (seed parent) and 83-15-2
(pollen parent). The numbers were assigned to these vari-
eties by Mr. Kramer. Both parents are marketed in Germany
and both are *Calluna vulgaris* or "bud flowering" heathers.
Cross pollination between bud flowering heathers is difficult
since the flowers never open, but Mr. Kramer was able to do
so to create the subject variety and its sister varieties
Alexandra and Romina. The resulting seeds were planted in
1986. From these seedlings 19 plants were selected and
planted in a field. The subject plant of this disclosure was
subsequently selected from these 19 seedlings. The subject
variety has been asexually reproduced at Edewecht, Ger-
many from cuttings and subsequent generations have been
true to form in all respects.

The subject variety produces buds in the fall having a
unique white color. The buds do not open into flowers but
remain in the bud stage through the winter, approximately
six months, from October to March, in Edewecht, Germany.
The subject variety has a dense upright globular shape with
protruding flower shoots which are heavily budded. The
overall height of the plant at maturity, is approximately 24
inches with 6–8 inch shoots.

The closest varieties known to the applicant that have
been publicly disclosed in Europe are Alexandra, a purple
bud flowering Heather also developed by Kurt Kramer, and
the subject of U.S. plant patent application Ser. No. 08/459,
510, filed Jun. 2, 1995. To the best of applicant's knowledge,
Alexandra has not been brought into the United States.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows the subject variety planted in the ground in
Edewecht, Germany in October showing the color of the bud
and shape of the plant.

FIG. 2 shows the subject variety in a pot at about the same
time period.

FIG. 3 shows the shoots and buds of the subject variety.

2

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW
VARIETY

The following is a detailed description of the new variety
of Heather plant based upon observations of plants grown at
Edewecht, Germany. Color references are to The Royal
Horticultural Society Color Chart except where general
color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

PLANT

Botanical description: *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull.
Common description: Broom Heather.
Form: Woody Shrub, perennial, evergreen.
Shape: Low, strongly basally branching shrub with very
dense branching; habit is generally mounded with a
profusion of weakly terminally dominant branches below
flower spike which occur at the apices of main branches.
Height: Approximately 24 inches, including flower spikes,
at maturity.
Main stem:

Length.—Approximately 24 inches, including flower
spikes, at maturity.

Color.—Yellow-green — 151A in April, tends to get
lighter through the growing season.

Branching.—Heavily branched until the spike. The
spike has a plurality of auxiliary verticils of clusters
of 2 to 4 buds outwardly radiating from the apices of
oppositely placed, short branches arising out of leaf
axils of bilobularly attached leaves, with stem pairs
on a plane 90° to the plane of adjacent pairs.

Growth: Approximately 8 inches per year, very vigorous;
ultimate height without spike is approximately 16 inches.

Foliage: Leaves are oppositely placed, scale-like and
bractiolate, sessile, and occur in 4 rows on stems which
are essentially square in cross-section.

Leaf length.—1.5–6.0 mm.

Leaf width.—0.8–1.5 mm.

Leaf color.—Color of plant ends in spring — light green
149D. Color of plant ends in winter — mid green
141A. Color of main plant in summer — yellow
green 143A.

Plant 9,789

3

Flower spikes: Formed at the terminals of main branches, having a plurality of uniformly spaced auxiliary verticils with clusters of 2 to 4, or more, mature buds outwardly radiating from the apex of oppositely placed, short branches which arise out of leaf axils of bilobularly attached bractiolate leaves; stem pairs are on a plane 90 to the plane of adjacent pairs; length of spikes is normally about 6–8 inches, presenting a profusion of mature buds from base to the progressively bud-forming terminal; the number of buds formed is about average for the species. Pruning: No pruning is equired except to maintain shape. Removal of spikes from the previous season will promote better growth of new spikes.

BUD

Color of bud at full development: White 155D. The bud does not open to a flower. It stays a bud during its season. Budding period: 6 months — fall through early spring.

4

Bud diameter: Approximately 1/8 inch.
Bud length: Approximately 1/4 inch.
Bud shape: Truncated Elliptic.
Inflorescence: The corolla and reproductive organs of the plant are identical to those of the species; corolla color — white 155D. There are 4 sepals which fads after the first frost. The plant does not produce seed because the style is covered by the sepals. Reproduction is by cuttings.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct variety of Heather plant named *Calluna vulgaris* Melanie, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized particularly by its white flowers which remain as an unopened bud from fall through early spring.

* * * * *



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG.3

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : Plant 9,789
DATED : January 28, 1997
INVENTOR(S) : Kurt Kramer

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Col. 1, Line 45 After "variety" insert --along with
the shoots and buds of the Alexandra
variety--.

Col. 2, Line 19 Delete "spike" and insert --spikes--.

Col. 3, Line 11 Delete "equired" and insert --required--.

Col. 4, Line 7 Delete "fads" and insert --fade--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-second Day of July, 1997



Attest:

BRUCE LEHMAN

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks