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United States Patent [19]  
Bergman

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- 4] AZALEA PLANT NAMED MYSTIC
- 5] Inventor: Wendy R. Bergman, Lehigh Acres, Fla.
- 3] Assignee: Yoder Brothers, Inc., Barberton, Ohio
- 1] Appl. No.: 583,474
- 2] Filed: Jan. 5, 1996
- 1] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... A01H 5/00
- 2] U.S. Cl. .... Plt./57
- 8] Field of Search ..... Plt./55, 56, 57

6] References Cited

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-  
var of Azalea, a greenhouse forcing type, hereinafter  
ferred to as Mystic.  
Mystic, identified as Code 1010 during the selection  
ocess, originated from a planned cross hybridization  
etween two selected breeding lines in a controlled breeding  
ogram in Fort Myers, Fla.  
The female, or seed parent of Mystic is the commercial  
ltivar Girard's Fuchsia, a deep reddish purple single. The  
ale, or pollen parent is a seedling known as Code 227, a  
oprietary breeding line.  
Mystic was discovered and selected by Wendy R. Berg-  
an as one flowering plant within the progeny of the stated  
oss in January 1992, in Fort Myers, Fla.  
The first asexual reproduction of Mystic was accom-  
ished when vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial  
lection in Apr. 1992, in Fort Myers, Fla., by technicians  
rking under formulations established and supervised by  
endy R. Bergman.  
Horticultural examination of controlled flowerings of  
ccessive generations of plants derived from cuttings taken  
m the original selection has shown that the unique  
mbination of characteristics as herein disclosed for Mystic  
e fixed and retained through successive generations of  
exual reproduction.  
Mystic has not been observed under all possible environ-  
ental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly  
th variations in environment such as temperature, light  
ensity and day length, without, however, any variance in  
e genotype. The following observations, measurements  
d comparisons describe plants that were grown in Fort  
yers, Fla. in a controlled greenhouse environment and  
llowing a commercial schedule.  
The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
e determined to be basic characteristics of Mystic, which,  
combination, distinguish this azalea as a new and distinct  
ltivar:  
1. A fuchsia flower color (between 71B and 71C) fading  
a rose pink (between 68A and 68B) at old age.  
2. Single flower form.  
3. The flowers range in size from 6.5 to 8.5 cm in diameter  
th 7.5 cm the average size.  
4. Compact, uniform and symmetrical plant habit.  
5. Fast, uniform response in a year round controlled  
owering program, forcing in 27 days on average.  
6. Good longevity in a simulated home environment, with  
wers lasting up to 25 days.

PUBLICATIONS

Cox, Peter A., (Listing for) "Mystic" *Dwarf Rhododendrons*  
1973 MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc, N.Y., p. 207.  
Leach, David G., (Listing for) "Mystic" *Rhododendrons of*  
*the World* 1961, Charles Schribner's Sons, N.Y., p. 478.  
*Primary Examiner*—James R. Feyrer  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Foley & Lardner

[57] ABSTRACT

An azalea plant named Mystic particularly characterized by  
its dark glossy evergreen foliage, single flower form, fuchsia  
flower color, ease of budding, uniform and dense plant habit,  
free branching, rapid and uniform flower response in a year  
round controlled program, excellent cooler tolerance and  
good keeping quality.

1 Drawing Sheet

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7. Excellent foliage retention and no flower bud damage  
when cooled for six (6) weeks with no lighting at 38° F.  
The accompanying color photograph shows in perspec-  
tive view the unique features of the new cultivar, with colors  
being as true as possible with color illustrations on this type.  
Of the commercial cultivars known to the inventor, the  
most similar in comparison to Mystic is the seed parent  
Girard's Fuchsia. While both are evergreen azaleas with  
single flower form, Mystic's flowers are a shade lighter in  
color than Girard's Fuchsia and the petal margins of Mystic  
are not as wavy.  
In the following description color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. The color  
values were determined on Apr. 6, 1995. All readings were  
taken in an office under cool white fluorescent lights, facing  
a west window between the hours of 10:00 a.m and 2:00  
p.m.

Classification:  
*Botanical.*—*Rhododendron hybrida*, evergreen type.  
*Commercial.*—Florist forcing pot azalea, cv. Mystic.

INFLORESCENCE

25 Flower (General):  
*Size.*—6.5 to 8.5 cm.  
*Born.*—Terminal cluster, usually three (3) per bud,  
ranging from two to four (2–4). Often more than one  
(1) bud per stem.  
30 *Form.*—Single. Funnel-form.  
*Blooming habit.*—Once profusely. Buds easily and uni-  
formly in a year-round flowering program. The  
majority of terminal buds break color within one (1)  
week of the first. Flowering begins approximately 27  
days after the start of forcing.  
35 *Fragrance.*—Present.  
Corolla (Petals):  
*Texture.*—Soft.  
*Substance.*—Heavy.  
40 *Shape.*—Rounded. Irregular undulate margin.  
*Color (fully open).*—Generally between 71B and 71C.  
Fuchsia. Upper surface: Edge: Between 71C and  
71D. Center: 72C. Base: Between 72D and 73B.  
Lower surface: 71D with overlay toward base of  
between 58B and 58C. Blotch: 61A.

**Bud:***Size*.—Medium.*Shape*.—Conoidal.*Color*.—Between 71B and 71C.*Bud sheath*.—Light green to light brown with light brown hairs.**Calyx:***Form*.—Acuminate.*Color*.—144B.**Peduncle:***Length*.—0.5–1.5 cm.*Strength*.—Strong.*Aspect*.—Pubescent.**Reproductive organs:***Androecium (stamens)*.—Number: Six to eight (6–8).

Anthers: 79A. Filaments: Length: 2.3–4.5 cm. Color: Between 66C and 66D.

*Gynoecium (pistil)*.—Stigma: 59A. Style: Length: 3.0–4.8 cm. Color: Between 73A and 73B. Ovary: Pubescent.**PLANT CHARACTERISTICS****Foliage:***Type*.—Evergreen.*Arrangement*.—Alternate.*Shape*.—Elliptic to ovate.*Size*.—Length: 2.0–7.0 cm. Width: 0.7–3.4 cm.*Margin*.—Entire.*Color*.—Immature: Upper surface; 144A. Lower surface: 144B. Mature: Upper surface: 139A. Lower surface: 146B. Texture: Leathery, Tomentum: Present on upper surface, Insignificant.**Stems:***Color*.—Immature: 184B. Mature: 165A. Tomentum: Present, sparse, Insignificant.*Plant habit*: Compact, upright, dense bush which is uniform and symmetrical in a six-inch (6") pot when pinched three (3) times. Total crop time to the dormant budded stage is 40–42 weeks to produce a plant approximately 30 cm in diameter and having a total height of 30–36 cm. Internode lengths vary widely from 1–30 mm on the same stem.*Branching habit*: Free branching, producing three to five (3–5) breaks when a vegetative cutting is pinched.*Rooting*: Roots easily in eight to ten (8–10) weeks with 75° F. soil temperature.*Budding ease*: Plants produce flower buds easily and uniformly year round with the use of commercially available plant growth regulators. Natural season response has not been ascertained.*Cooler tolerance*: Plants placed in a cooler as a means of breaking dormancy perform very well. Mystic is tolerant of six (6) weeks in an unlighted cooler at 38° F. without excessive bud damage or foliage loss.*Blooming*: Plants reach the stage of 12 buds showing color in 27 days on average after the cooling treatment. This varies from 20 to 34 days depending upon time of year.

Mystic flowers uniformly and profusely across the plant.

*Shelf life*: When plants are moved to an office or home environment at the stage of eight (8) open flowers, they maintain an attractive appearance for 25 days on average.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of azalea named Mystic, as described and illustrated.

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**U.S. Patent**

**Oct. 14, 1997**

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