US00PP10510P

United States Patent [19]

Verwer

[11] **Patent Number: Plant 10,510**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jul. 21, 1998**

[54] **DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'GALLERY DEGAS'**

[75] Inventor: **Aad Verwer**, Lisse, Netherlands

[73] Assignee: **Gebr. Verwer**, Lisse, Netherlands

[21] Appl. No.: **815,868**

[22] Filed: **Mar. 12, 1997**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A01H 5/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./87.8**

[58] **Field of Search** Plt./87.8

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 7,762	1/1992	Wilms	Plt./87.8
P.P. 8,459	11/1993	Veenstra	Plt./87.8
P.P. 10,124	11/1997	Kleinhanns	Plt./87.8

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

GTITM UPOVROM Listing for 'Gallery Degas' as per PBRDHL0064 (NL) Mar. 16, 1996.

Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
Assistant Examiner—Kent L. Bell
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—C. A. Whealy

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant named 'Gallery Degas', characterized by its suitability for potted plants, garden for patio plants, or as cut flowers; upright and spreading and freely branching plant habit; medium green foliage; early and profuse flowering; rapid growth rate; decorative-type inflorescences that are about 9 cm in diameter; purple ray florets; and good postproduction longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant, botanically known as Dahlia hybrid and referred to by the cultivar name 'Gallery Degas'.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the inventor in Lisse, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create compact Dahlia cultivars that flower early and profusely with desirable ray floret color and good post-production longevity.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the invention in 1993, of two unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selections.

The cultivar 'Gallery Degas' were discovered and selected by the inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Lisse, the Netherlands, in 1993. The selection of this plant was based on its freely branching habit, desirable ray floret color, floriferousness and good postproduction longevity.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Lisse, The Netherlands, has shown that the unique features of this new Dahlia are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

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

1. Suitable for potted plants, garden or patio plants, or as cut flowers.
2. Upright and spreading and freely branching plant habit.
3. Medium green foliage.
4. Early and profuse flowering.
5. Rapid growth rate.
6. Decorartive-type inflorescences that are about 9 cm in diameter.
7. Purple ray florets.
8. Good postproduction longevity with open inflorescences maintaining good substance and color for at least 10 days and plants maintaining good substance and flowering for 3 to 4 months.

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar. The colored photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Gallery Degas'. This photograph shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Floret and foliage colors in the photograph may differ from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

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. The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Lisse, The Netherlands, under conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial potted Dahlia production with day temperatures averaging 21° C. and night temperatures averaging 14° C. Plants were grown during the summer and measurements and numerical values were averages derived from typical flowering plants in September.

Botanical classification: Dahlia hybrid cultivar 'Gallery Degas'.

Commercial classification: Decorative potted Dahlia.

Parentage:

Male or pollen parent.—Unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selection of Dahlia hybrid.

Female or seed parent.—Unnamed proprietary open-pollinated seedling selection of Dahlia hybrid.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal tip cuttings or by tuberous divisions.

Time to rooting.—About 14 days with soil temperatures of 20° C.

Rooting habit.—Central root with numerous secondary roots that are fine and fibrous.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Perennial herbaceous decorative-type Dahlia, suitable as potted plants, garden or patio plants, or as cut flowers. Upright and spreading habit and freely branching.

Plant height.—About 35 cm, appropriate for 13 of 15-cm containers.

Growth rate.—Rapid, typically only 65 days are required from an unrooted cutting to a finished flowering plant.

Foliage description.—Leaf arrangement: Opposite, occasionally whorled, simple or compound. Compound leaves have either three or five leaflets. Leaf size, single: Length: About 8 cm. Width: About 7 cm. Leaf size, compound: Length: About 17 cm. Width: About 15 cm. Leaf shape: Ovate. Leaf apex: Acute. Leaf base: Acute. Leaf margin: Serrate. Leaf texture: Smooth. Color: Young foliage adaxial surface: 146A. Young foliage abaxial surface: 191A. Mature foliage adaxial surface: 137A, occasionally anthocyanin at the leaf margin. Mature foliage abaxial surface: 191A. Venation adaxial surface: 138A. Venation abaxial surface: 138B. Petiole: Length: 3 to 5 cm. Color: 138A with anthocyanin.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Fully double decorative-type inflorescence form with purple ray florets. Inflorescences borne on terminals above foliage.

Flowering response.—Under natural conditions, plant flower from July to November in the Northern Hemisphere.

Postproduction longevity.—On the plant, open inflorescences will maintain good color and substance for at least 10 days. As a cut flower, open inflorescences will maintain good color and substance for at least 6 days. Plants will continue to maintain good substance and flowering for three to four months.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Numerous, continuous flowering.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 9 cm. Depth (height): About 1.5 cm.

Inflorescence bud.—Size: Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 1.4 cm. Rate of opening: About 14 days. Color: 154A.

Ray florets.—Shape: Short and wide. Size: Length: About 3.5 cm. Width: About 1.6 cm. Apex: Small point. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, satiny. Aspect: Concave when opening then flatter. Color: When opening: 70A. Adaxial surface: 71D with 15A at base. Abaxial surface: 70B. Fading to: 73B. After senescence: 73C.

Disc florets.—Few and inconspicuous.

Peduncle.—Length: 5 to 10 cm. Aspect: Strong, erect. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 144B with anthocyanin.

Sepals.—Quantity: 5 to 6. Shape: Ovate with pointed apex. Color: Abaxial surface: 144A with anthocyanin. Adaxial surface: 144A with anthocyanin.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther shape: Long and pointed. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: 21B. Pollen color: 14A. Gynoecium: Stigma color: 17A. Style length: About 5 mm. Style color: 154B.

Disease resistance: No known Dahlia diseases observed to date on plants grown under commercial conditions.

Seed production: Seed production has not been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant named 'Gallery Degas', as illustrated and described.

* * * * *