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Troutner

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[54] MYOPORUM PLANT VARIETY NAMED  
MYOPORUM PARVIFOLIUM ‘ROBUSTUM’

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct rapidly growing Myoporum plant variety  
of prostrate form.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of  
Myoporum which was discovered as a seedling in a culti-  
vated planting of the variety Myoporum in the city and  
county of San Luis Obispo, Calif. The varietal denomination  
of the new variety is *Myoporum parvifolium* ‘Robustum’.

There are four known forms of prostrate Myoporum and  
the new variety is distinctly different from each of them.  
‘*Myoporum parvifolium*’ is a somewhat vine-like prostrate  
ground cover which reaches a height of only a few inches  
and a width of about 12 to 15 feet. The leaves are approxi-  
mately 1/8 inch wide by 3/4 inch long. *Myoporum parvifolium*  
‘Putah Creek’ grows slightly larger than the species with  
leaves about 1/4 inch wide by about 1 1/2 inches long and the  
foliage is considerably lighter, i.e. more yellow, in color than  
the species. Myoporum ‘South Coast’ is a large spreading  
shrub growing to 3 feet tall and 10 to 15 feet wide. The  
leaves are glossy, medium green and about 1/2 inch wide by  
2 inches long. Myoporum ‘pacificum’ is a wide spreading  
shrub more than 3 feet tall and up to 30 feet wide with dark  
green leaves 1 inch wide by 3 inches long (U.S. Plant Pat.  
No. 4,560).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Among the novel characteristics possessed by the new  
variety which distinguish it from other varieties of which I  
am aware are: 1) a fast growing plant with extremely dense  
foliage that gives the plant a compact appearance; 2) a  
spidery plant appearance when viewed from the side; 3)  
glossy upper and lower leaf surfaces; and 4) lanceolate  
leaves with serrulate margins about 1/2 inch wide and about  
2 to 2 1/2 inches long showing little variation on the plant.

Plants planted in the ground from a one gallon container  
Apr. 13, 1996 had a plant width (spread) of about 8 inches.  
As of Jul. 4, 1998, the plant’s width was about 12 feet and  
the height was about 30 inches.

The new variety of Myoporum is very well suited for use  
as ground cover on banks or flat areas. It is also very useful  
for erosion control and site beautification because of its  
dense foliage and quick growth.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in  
Slo, Calif., has demonstrated that the combination of char-  
acteristics as described herein for the new variety are firmly  
fixed and are retained through successive generations of  
asexual reproduction.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The accompanying two illustrations describe stem and  
foliage of the new variety in color as true as is reasonably  
possible to make in an illustration of this nature.

In one illustration, the new variety shown on the right, is  
compared with stem and foliage from left to right,  
respectively, *Myoporum ‘parvifolium’*, *Myoporum parvifo-*  
*lium ‘Putah Creek’*, Myoporum ‘South Coast’, and *Myo-*  
*porum ‘pacificum’*.

In the other illustration the new variety is shown alone and  
the prostrate growth habit is illustrated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following observations and descriptions are of speci-  
mens of the new variety grown outdoors in San Luis Obispo  
County, Calif., in the month of July. Variation in environ-  
mental cultural climatic practices may affect phenotypic  
expression.

PLANT

1. General growth habit: Vigorously growing, prostrate,  
copiously branching, foliage very dense.
2. Typical dimensions: After about 15 months from planting,  
width about 12 feet, height about 30 inches.
3. Foliage:

*Leaf description.*—Simple, lanceolate. Width: About 1/2  
inch. Length: About 2 inches to 2 1/2 inches. Apex:  
Acuminate. Base: Attenuate, short petiolate to  
sessile. Margins: Mostly profusely serrulate. Quan-  
tity: Very numerous foliage. overall; one leaf per  
node, alternate.

*Color.*—Mature leaf surfaces: Upper side is olive green,  
near 137B, lower side is yellow green. Immature leaf  
surfaces: Upper side is near 137A, lower side is a  
lighter yellow green that of the mature leaves.

*Texture.*—Mature leaves: Upper and lower surfaces  
glabrous, glossy, rough with many glandular dots.  
Younger leaves: Essentially the same in texture as  
the older ones with the exception that the glandular  
dots are not as pronounced. Aspect: Midvein raised  
and pronounced on the lower surface; glandular dots  
pronounced along the midvein; leaves are reflexed  
downward, and folded upward along the midvein;  
the folding is more definite in immature leaves.  
Rooting: Taprooted with root branches growing  
quickly as with the stem.

- 4. Disease and insect resistance: No apparent insect or disease problems.
- 5. Flowers: The calyx is five toothed. The corolla is regular, sympetalous, 5 lobed, white with purple dots particularly near the base, bell shaped, about ¾ inch in diameter. The flowers are perfect, stamens 4, inserted on the throat of the corolla. The flowers are in clusters but are not particularly showy. The number of locules in the ovary varies. The

fruit is a few-seeded reddish purple drupe, about ½ inch long, oblong.

I claim:

- 1. A new and distinct Myoporum plant, substantially as shown and described, characterized by prostrate form, dense growth and fast growing ability.

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