



US00PP11353P

United States Patent [19]
Weerdenburg et al.

[11] Patent Number: Plant 11,353
[45] Date of Patent: Apr. 18, 2000

[54] FLORIBUNDA ROSE PLANT NAMED
‘KORMEERAM’

[75] Inventors: Andreas J. Weerdenburg, Amstelveen;
Hette Spek, Boskoop, both of
Netherlands

[73] Assignee: Bear Creek Gardens, Inc., Medford,
Oreg.

[21] Appl. No.: 09/138,831

[22] Filed: Aug. 24, 1998

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00

[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./149
[58] Field of Search Plt./141, 149, 130,
Plt./138

Primary Examiner—Howard J. Locker
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Klarquist Sparkman Campbell
Leigh & Whinston, LLP

[57] ABSTRACT

Floribunda rose plant having a dark pink flower color; high
flower production; excellent vase life; good shipping quali-
ties; and very vigorous growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of rose plant of the floribunda class which was discovered as
a single branch spontaneous flower color mutation on a rose
plant of the variety of ‘KORmiller’ (U.S. Plant Pat. appli-
cation No. 08/985,371, filed Dec. 4, 1997) growing in a
greenhouse in Amstelveen, Holland, which bore a dark pink
flower as compared to the pastel pink flowers of
‘KORmiller’.

‘KORMeeram’ differs from its parent, ‘KORmiller’, prin-
cipally in flower color and in the color spot at the base of the
petals. It has the same growth, production good shipping
qualities of cut flowers, vase life and response to the
environment as ‘KORmiller’, producing 26–29 flowers per
plant per year in a greenhouse.

Asexual reproduction of this new variety by budding, as
performed at Boskoop, Holland, and Somis, Calif. shows
that the foregoing and all other characteristics and distinc-
tions come true to form and are established and transmitted
through succeeding propagations.

The accompanying illustration shows a typical specimens
of the vegetative growth and flowers of this new vareity in
different stages of development, depicted in color as nearly
true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in a color
illustration of this character.

The following is a detailed description of my new rose
cultivar with color descriptions using terminology in accor-
dance with The Royal Horticultural Society (London)
Colour Chart, except where ordinary dictionary significance
of color is indicated.

Parentage: Spontaneous mutant of ‘KORmiller’ (U.S. Plant
Pat. application No. 08/985,371, filed Dec. 4, 1997.)

Classification:
Botanical.—Rosa hybrida.
Commercial.—Floribunda.

FLOWER

Observations made from specimens grown in a green-
house environment at Boskoop, Holland, and Somis, Calif.
from January 1997 to June 1998.

Blooming habit: Continuous.
Bud:

Size.—About 1½ inches long when the petals start to
unfurl.
Form.—Long, pointed ovoid and somewhat blunt at the
tip.

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Color.—When sepals first divide, bud color is Red-
Purple Group 57D. When half blown, the upper sides
of the petals are Red-Purple Group 57C, and the
lower sides of the petals are Red-Purple Group 57D.
Sepals.—Color: Green Group 138B. Surface texture:
Covered in fine hairs. There are three normally to
heavily appendaged sepals. There are two unappend-
aged sepals with hairy edges.
Receptacles.—Color: Yellow-Green Group 146C.
Shape: Funnel. Size: Medium (about 5/16 inch×¼
inch). Surface: Smooth.
Peduncle.—Length: Short, averaging about 2½ inches.
Surface: Smooth. Color: Yellow-Green Group 146C.
Strength: Stiff, erect.

Bloom:
Size.—Medium. Average open diameter is about 3½ to
4 inches.
Borne.—Singly and occasionally on new basal shoots
several together in pyramidal clusters of five to seven
blooms.
Stems.—Strong, averaging about 18–22 inches in
length.
Form.—When first open: High centered. Permanence:
Retains its form to the end, outer petals curl back,
quill fashion.
Petalage.—Number of petals under normal conditions:
25 to 30.
Color.—The upper sides of the petals are Red-Purple
Group 57C. The reverse sides of the petals are
Red-Purple Group 57D. The base of the petals has a
quite large, 3/8"×7/16" Yellow Group 7C half-moon at
the point of attachment. The major color on the upper
sides is Red-Purple Group 57C.
Variegations.—Occasional greenish-white streak on the
guard petals.
Discoloration.—At the end of the first day: No change.
At the end of the third day: No change. By day six
on the plant and by day ten in the vase, there is a
slight fading of the bloom to Red-Purple Group 66B.
Fragrance.—Slight.
Petals:
Texture.—Thick, leathery.
Shape.—Round.
Form.—Tips slightly recurved, edges slightly quilled.
Arrangement.—Imbricated. Petaloids in the center are
few, small.
Persistence.—Petals drop off cleanly before drying.
Lastingness.—On the plant: Long (about 9 to 10 days).
As a cut flower: Very long (16 to 18 days).

Reproductive parts:

Anthers.—Size: Medium. Quantity: Many. Color: Yellow-Orange Group 15A. Arrangement: Regular around styles.
Filaments.—Color: Yellow Group 13A.
Pollen.—Color: Gold-yellow.
Styles.—Color: Greyed-Purple Group 187D.
Stigmas.—Color: Greenish-white.

Plant:

Form.—Bush.
Growth.—Very vigorous; upright; branching. Mature plant, six to seven months after planting, is 5½ feet in height and 3½ feet in width. Plants are maintained at this height and width by harvest of flowers.

Foliage: Number of leaflets on normal mid-stem leaves: Five.

Size.—Large (6½ inches long×4¾ inches wide).
Quantity.—Abundant.
Color.—New foliage: Upper side and lower sides: Greyed-Purple Group 184B. Old foliage: Upper side: Green Group 139A. Lower side: Green Group 137C. The foliage upper surface will rapidly turn green, while the lower surface will keep the Greyed-Purple Group 184B for several days before becoming green.

Leaflets:

Shape.—Pointed oval.
Texture.—Leathery. Surface: Matte.
Edge.—Serrated.

Serration.—Single, small.
Petiole Rachis.—Color: Greyed-Purple Group 187B.
Petiole Underside.—Smooth.
Stipules.—Medium (5/8), serrated, bearded.
Disease Resistance.—Resistant to mildew under normal growing conditions in a greenhouse. Not tested for resistance to blackspot and rust.

Wood:

New Wood.—Color: Greyed-Purple Group 187B. Bark: Smooth.
Old Wood.—Color: Green Group 139A. Bark: Smooth.

Prickles:

Quantity.—On main canes from base: Few. On laterals from main canes: Few.
Form.—Short, hooked slightly downward.
Color when Young.—Greyed-Purple Group 187B.
Color when Mature.—Near Greyed-Orange Group 174D.

Small prickles:

Quantity.—On main stalks: None. On laterals: None.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of rose plant of the floribunda class, as herein shown and described, characterized particularly by its dark pink flower color; high flower production; excellent vase life; good shipping qualities; and very vigorous growth habit.

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