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van Rijn

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[54] ANTHURIUM PLANT NAMED ‘BABY PINK’
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[57] ABSTRACT

A distinct cultivar of Anthurium plant named ‘Baby Pink’, characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly arching and very freely clumping growth habit; dark green leaves that are ovate to sagittate in shape; strong vigorous roots; numerous inflorescences that are positioned above the foliage on strong and erect scapes; durable soft pink spathes; year-round continuous flowering; and good post-production longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Anthurium plant, botanically known as *Anthurium andreanum*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Baby Pink’.

The new Anthurium is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Schipluiden, The Netherlands. The objective of the program is to create new compact Anthurium cultivars that are suitable for smaller containers and that have a freely clumping growth habit, strong plant growth, attractive spathe color, numerous inflorescences and leaves, and good post-production longevity.

The new Anthurium originated from a cross by the Inventor on Jan. 24, 1994 of the Inventor’s proprietary *Anthurium andreanum* selection code number 9419 as the female, or seed, parent with the Inventor’s proprietary *Anthurium andreanum* selection code No. 923 as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar ‘Baby Pink’ was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Schipluiden, The Netherlands in the autumn of 1995.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar by tissue culture in a laboratory in Belgium has shown that the unique features of this new Anthurium plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new Anthurium has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature 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 the cultivar ‘Baby Pink’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Baby Pink’ as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Compact, upright, outwardly arching and very freely clumping growth habit.
2. Dark green leaves that are ovate to sagittate in shape.
3. Strong vigorous roots.
4. Numerous inflorescences that are positioned above the foliage on strong and erect scapes.
5. Durable soft pink spathes.

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6. Year-round continuous flowering.
7. Good post-prduction longevity.

The new Anthurium can be compared to the female parent, the Inventor’s proprietary selection code number 9419. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Schipluiden, The Netherlands, plants of the new Anthurium differ from plants of selection code number 9419 in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Anthurium have pink-colored spathes whereas plants of the selection code number 9419 have red-colored spathes.
2. Plants of the new Anthurium are more compact than plants of the selection code number 9419.
3. Plants of the new Anthurium have more durable leaves than plants of the selection code number 9419.
4. Plants of the new Anthurium are more freely clumping than plants of the selection code number 9419.

The new Anthurium can be compared to the male parent, the Inventor’s proprietary selection code number 923. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Schipluiden, The Netherlands, plants of the new Anthurium differ from plants of selection code number 923 in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Anthurium have lighter pink-colored spathes than plants of the selection code number 923.
2. Plants of the new Anthurium are more compact than plants of the selection code number 923.
3. Plants of the new Anthurium are more freely clumping than plants of the selection code number 923.
4. Plants of the new Anthurium have much smaller leaves than plants of the selectin code number 923.
5. Plants of the new Anthurium have smaller spathes than plants of the selection code number 923.

The new Anthurium can be compared to the Anthurium cultivar ‘Champion’ disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,088. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Schipluiden, The Netherlands, plants of the new Anthurium differ from plants of the cultivar ‘Champion’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Anthurium are more compact than plants of the cultivar ‘Champion’.
2. Plants of the new Anthurium are more freely clumping than plants of the cultivar ‘Champion’.
3. Plants of the new Anthurium have smaller and more durable leaves than plants of the cultivar ‘Champion’.

4 Plants of the new *Anthurium* have more durable spathes than plants of the cultivar 'Champion'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Anthurium*, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a top perspective view of a typical potted plant of the cultivar 'Baby Pink'.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a close-up view of a typical spathe and spadix of the cultivar 'Baby Pink'. Leaf, spathe and spadix colors in the photographs may appear different from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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 two-year old plants grown in Schipluiden, The Netherlands, in a glass greenhouse with an average day temperature of 25° C. and an average night temperature of 19° C.

Botanical classification: *Anthurium andreanum* cultivar 'Baby Pink'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Inventor's proprietary *Anthurium andreanum* selection code number 9419.

Male parent.—Inventor's proprietary *Anthurium andreanum* selection code number 923.

Propagation:

Method.—Typically by tissue culture.

Time to initiate roots.—About 70 or 84 days at 24° C. or 21° C., respectively.

Rooting habit.—Numerous and very strong fleshy roots.

Plant description:

Plant shape.—Upright, inverted triangle, symmetrical.

Growth habit.—Erect when young, becoming outwardly arching as plants develop. Freely clumping, bushy and dense. Appropriate for 9 to 30-cm containers.

Plant height.—About 45 cm from soil level to apex of spathes.

Plant vigor.—High.

Growth rate.—Moderate.

Crop time.—About 8 and 10 months are usually required from planting of young plants to finished plants in 14-cm and 17-cm containers, respectively.

Foliage description.—Quantity: Usually about ten leaves per clump. Length: About 14 cm. Width: About 11 cm. Shape: Ovate to sagittate, concave. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Rounded to cordate; lobes not overlapping. Margin: Entire, strongly undulating. Texture: Smooth, glabrous, leathery. Color: Young leaves, upper surface: 144A. Young leaves, lower surface: 144A. Mature leaves, upper surface: 139A to 147A. Mature leaves, lower surface: 144A to 146A. Petiole: Length: About 22.5 cm. Color: 144A. Geniculum: Slightly thicker than petiole and lighter green, sometimes inconspicuous about 2.5 cm in length.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescences arrangement.—Spathe with spadix held above the foliage. Flowering structures arise from leaf axils. Freely flowering; continuous flowering year-round; typically about 20 inflorescences per plant. Not fragrant.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last about six weeks under winter conditions and up to three months under summer conditions; persistent.

Flowers.—Quantity of flowers per spadix: Numerous, about 150 flowers. Shape: Rounded. Diameter: About 1 mm, maximum.

Spathe.—Length: About 7 cm. Width: About 6.75 cm. Height above foliage: About 7.5 cm. Shape: Deltoid to cordate. Apex: Cuspidate to mucronate. Base: Acute; lobes not overlapping. Margin: Entire. Texture: Leathery, glabrous, very slight blistering, shiny. Color: When opening: 38C to 38D. Front surface: 38A to 38D. Back surface: 38C to 38D. After senescence: 39B with green, 144A, at base on both surfaces.

Spadix.—Length: About 5 cm. Diameter: About 9 mm. Shape: Columnar. Cross section: Rounded. Longitudinal axis: Weakly recurved. Color: Base: Creamy white, 159B. Mid-section: Close to 159A. Apex: 170D. Color, after senescence: 146A.

Scape.—Length: About 30cm. Aspect: Strong and erect. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Pollen color: Creamy white, 158D. Gynoecium: Stigma shape: Ovoid.

Disease resistance: Plants of the new *Anthurium* have not been shown to be resistant to diseases common to *Anthurium*.

Seed development: Seed development on plants of the new *Anthurium* has not been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Anthurium* plant named 'Baby Pink', as illustrated and described.

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