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# United States Patent [19] van den Bosch

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[54] HYPERICUM PLANT NAMED 'BOSAPRI'

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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./226

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 568 3/1943 Grullemans ..... Plt./226  
P.P. 10,993 7/1999 van den Bosch ..... Plt./226

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[57] ABSTRACT

A distinct cultivar of Hypericum plant named 'Bosapri', characterized by its early flowering, plants flower about 13 weeks after planting; long stem length, typically about 70 cm; large bright red berries; and dark green leaves.

2 Drawing Sheets

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Hypericum plant, botanically known as *Hypericum androsaemum*, commonly referred to as Saint John's Wort, commercially used as a cut flower, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Bosapri', and also known by the trade name Prince Flair and also known by the trade name Prince Flair. To date, the new Hypericum has not been noted to have any medicinal value. To date, the new Hypericum has not been noted to have any medicinal value.

The new Hypericum is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to develop cut Hypericum varieties with attractive berry color, early flowering, long flowering stem length, and large berry size. The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the Inventor in 1984 of two proprietary seedlings. The proprietary selection code number 83 was the female, or seed, parent, and the proprietary selection code number 71 was the male, or pollen, parent.

The cultivar Bosapri was discovered and selected by the Inventor in August, 1985 as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands.

Asexual propagation of the new Hypericum by cuttings taken at Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, has shown that the unique features of this new Hypericum plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Early flowering; plants flower about 13 weeks after planting.
2. Long stem length; typically about 70 cm.
3. Large bright red berries.
4. Dark green leaves.

The new Hypericum can be compared to its sibling cultivar 'Dual Flair', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,979. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, plants of the new Hypericum are taller, have

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smaller leaves, and have redder berries than plants of the cultivar 'Dual Flair'.

The new Hypericum can also be compared to its sibling cultivar 'Bosakin', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,994. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, plants of the new Hypericum flower earlier, have smaller leaves, and have smaller and redder berries than plants of the cultivar 'Bosakin'.

Plants of the new Hypericum have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light or fertility level, without, however, any variance in genotype.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the new Hypericum plant, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of the type.

The photograph at the top of the first sheet comprises a top perspective view of typical plants with berries of the new Hypericum under outdoor commercial production.

The photograph at the bottom of the first sheet comprises a close-up view of typical leaves and berries of plants of the new Hypericum.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet comprises a close-up view of typical flowers of plants of the new Hypericum.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet comprises a close-up view of typical berries of plants of the new Hypericum. Flower, fruit and foliage color in these photographs may appear different from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

## DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements, values, and comparisons describe plants grown in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, under outdoor commercial production practice. 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.

Classification:

*Botanical.*—*Hypericum androsaemum* cultivar 'Bosapri'.

*Commercial.*—Cut Hypericum; to date, no medicinal value.

## Parentage:

*Female parent.*—Proprietary *Hypericum androsaemum* selection code number 83.

*Male parent.*—Proprietary *Hypericum androsaemum* selection code number 71.

## Propagation:

*Type.*—Cuttings.

*Rooting habit.*—Fine, fibrous and well-branched.

## Plant description:

*Form.*—Upright, narrow woody shrub with erect lateral branches, branch angle about 30°.

*Growth habit.*—Moderately vigorous. Freely branching and dense growth.

*Plant height.*—About 70 cm.

*Stem and lateral branch color.*—Light green with reddish anthocyanic shading.

*Foliage description.*—Leaves arranged oppositely, single, sessile, and generally symmetrical. Length: About 5 cm. Width: About 3 cm. Shape: Ovate with acute apex and obtuse base. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, leathery. Color: Upper side: Dark green, 136A to 139A. Under side: Light green, 148A.

## Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Large golden yellow flowers arranged in apical compound umbels. Early flowering; plants flower about 13 weeks after planting. Natural flowering season in The Netherlands is early autumn, typically August and September. Flowers not fragrant.

*Postproduction longevity.*—Cut flowers are typically harvested when all flowers have developed berries. From flowers to berries takes about three weeks. Postproduction longevity of cut stems of the new *Hypericum* typically is about 5 days.

*Flower diameter.*—About 3.5 cm.

*Petals.*—Quantity: Typically five per flower. Length: About 1.6 cm. Width: About 1.1 cm. Shape: Elliptic, obtusely rounded, slightly asymmetrical. Margin: Entire. Orientation: Almost horizontally spreading and very concave. Color, both surfaces: 14A to 15A.

*Sepals.*—Quantity: Typically five per flower. Size: Three larger sepals, about 8 by 3 mm; and two smaller sepals, about 6 by 4 mm. Shape: Elliptic with nearly rounded apex, often slightly asymmetrical. Orientation: Mostly flat with an inner angle of about 30° to peduncle. Color: Upper side: Green, 143A, with brown-red anthocyanic shading, especially at apex and margins. Under side: Green, 148A, with brown-red anthocyanic shading, especially at apex and margins.

*Peduncles.*—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: About 2.5 cm. Color: Green with brown-red anthocyanic color, 176A to 178A to 181A.

*Reproductive organs.*—Stamens: Stamen shape: Slightly fan-shaped. Stamen color: Yellow. Anther color: Light yellow. Pollen: Present. Pistils: Style quantity: Three per flower. Style color: Yellow-green. Stigma color: Reddish brown. Ovary color: Pale green.

*Fruit description.*—Type: Capsule, pyxis. Shape: Oval. Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 8.5 mm. Color: Bright red, 46A, with slight brown.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens common to *Hypericum* has not been observed under commercial production conditions.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hypericum* plant named 'Bosapri', as illustrated and described.

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