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Ruigrok

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(54) **DAHLIA PLANT NAMED ‘LORRAINE’**
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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A distinct cultivar of Dahlia plant named ‘Lorraine’, char-
acterized by its upright, uniformly mounded and compact
plant habit; freely branching habit, full and dense plants;
continuous and freely flowering during the spring until fall;
full inflorescences with multiple rows of ray florets; purple
and yellow bi-colored ray florets with bright yellow-colored
disc florets; and excellent garden and patio container per-
formance.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Dahlia plant, botanically known as *Dahlia variabilis*,
commercially referred to as a pot-type Dahlia, and herein-
after referred to by the cultivar name Lorraine.
The new Dahlia is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Hillegom, The Neth-
erlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create
new pot-type Dahlia cultivars with desirable inflorescence
form, attractive colors, and good garden performance.
The new Dahlia originated from a cross made by the
Inventor in 1995 of two unidentified proprietary *Dahlia*
variabilis seedling selections. The new Dahlia was discov-
ered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant
within the progeny of the stated cross grown in a controlled
environment in Hillegom, The Netherlands. The selection of
this plant was based on its desirable inflorescence form and
attractive floret colors.
Asexual reproduction of the new Dahlia by vegetative tip
cuttings was first conducted in Hillegom, The Netherlands in
1996. Asexual reproduction by cuttings has shown that the
unique features of this new Dahlia are stable and reproduced
true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Lorraine 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 ‘Lorraine’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Lorraine’
as a new and distinct pot-type Dahlia:
1. Upright, uniformly mounded and compact plant habit.
2. Freely branching, full and dense plants.
3. Continuous and freely flowering during the spring until
fall.
4. Full inflorescences with multiple rows of ray florets
5. Purple and yellow bi-colored ray florets with bright
yellow-colored disc florets.

2

6. Excellent garden and patio container performance.

Plants of the new Dahlia differ from plants of the parent
selections and Dahlia cultivars known to the Inventor pri-
marily in ray floret coloration and its freely flowering habit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new Dahlia showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ
from the color values cited in the detailed botanical descrip-
tion which more accurately describe the actual colors of the
new Dahlia. The photograph comprises a side perspective
view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Lorraine’.

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
plants grown and flowered during the spring and summer in
Keller, Tex., under outdoor conditions which approximate
those generally used in commercial production. One rooted
cutting was planted in a 12.5-cm container and pinched
twice. Measurements and numerical values represent aver-
ages of typical flowering plants about 10 weeks after plant-
ing.

Botanical classification: *Dahlia variabilis* cultivar Lorraine.
Commercial classification: Pot-type Dahlia.
Parentage:
Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary *Dahlia variabilis*
seedling selection, not patented.
Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary *Dahlia variabilis*
seedling selection, not patented.
Propagation:
Type.—Terminal tip cuttings.
Time to rooting.—About seven to ten days with soil
temperatures of 21° C.
Root description.—Fine, fibrous and well-branched;
development of tubers has not been observed.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Herbaceous pot-type Dahlia. Inverted triangle; stems mostly upright and somewhat outwardly spreading giving a uniformly mounded appearance to the plant; relatively compact. Freely branching, lateral branches develop at every node after removal of terminal apex (pinching); dense and full plants. Vigorous.

Plant height.—To top of leaf plant: About 25 cm. To top of inflorescences plane: About 29 cm.

Plant width or area of spread.—About 32 cm.

Lateral branches.—Internode length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong, very flexible. Texture: Very smooth, glabrous, glossy. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Leaves single or compound and trifoliate. Length: Compound leaves: About 4.2 cm. Terminal leaflet: About 4.1 cm. Single leaves: About 4.4 cm. Width: Compound leaves: About 4 cm. Terminal leaflet: About 2 cm. Single leaves: About 3.1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute to cuspidate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Dentate with ciliation. Texture: Smooth, glabrous, leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young foliage upper surface: 147A. Young foliage lower surface: 147B. Mature foliage upper surface: 147A. Mature foliage lower surface: Lighter than 147B. Venation, upper surface: Close to 147B. Venation, lower surface: Close to 147C. Petiole length: Compound leaves: About 1.9 cm. Single leaves: About 2.1 cm. Petiole diameter: Compound leaves: About 3 mm. Single leaves: About 4 mm. Petiole color: 144A to 144B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Terminal and axillary inflorescences held above the foliage on strong flexible peduncles. Composite inflorescence form with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets and disc florets massed at the center; ray and disc florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum. Not fragrant.

Flowering response.—Plants flower continuous and freely from the spring through the fall.

Postproduction longevity.—Inflorescences maintain good color and substance for about one or two weeks in an outdoor environment dependent on temperature.

Quantity of inflorescences.—About 26 open inflorescences and buds per plant.

Inflorescence bud (just before opening).—Shape: Spherical. Height: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Color: Close to 154A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 3 cm. Depth (height): About 1.3 cm. Diameter of disc: About 1 cm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated-oblong. Orientation: Initially upright, outer florets perpendicular to peduncle. Aspect: Straight, convex. Length: About 1.3 cm. Width: About 8 mm. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate; short corolla tube. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 26 in about three rows. Color: When opening, upper surface: Purple and yellow bi-colored, 9A overlain towards apex with 59A. When opening, lower surface: Purple and yellow bi-colored, 9A underlain towards apex with 59A. Fully opened, upper surface: Purple and yellow bi-colored, 9A overlain towards apex with 59A. Fully opened, lower surface: Purple and yellow bi-colored, 9A underlain towards apex with 59A.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular, elongated. Apex: Five-pointed. Length: About 4.5 mm. Width: Apex, about 1.5 mm; base, about 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 44. Color: Immature: 154A. Mature: Apex: 9A. Base: 155D.

Involucral bracts.—Length: About 7 mm. Width: About 3.5 mm. Shape: Spatulate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Waxy, leathery, somewhat fleshy. Number per inflorescence: About 10 to 12. Color, both surfaces: 146A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal inflorescence: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong, very flexible. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Number of stamens per floret: One. Stamen length: Less than 1 mm. Stamen color: White. Anther color: 9A to 12A. Pollen amount: Pollen production has not been observed. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Number of pistils per floret: One. Pistil length: Less than 1 mm. Color: Yellow.

Seed production.—Seed production has not been observed.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens common to Dahlias has not been observed on plants grown under commercial greenhouse or outdoor conditions.

Weather tolerance: Plants of the new Dahlia have been observed to be wind and rain-tolerant. Plants of the new Dahlia tolerant temperatures from 1° to 40° C.

It is claimed:

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

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