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Drewlow

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(54) **KALANCHOE PLANT NAMED 'FOREVER
MAXI ROSE'**

(75) **Inventor:** **Lyndon W. Drewlow**, Lompoc, CA
(US)

(73) **Assignee:** **Oglevee, Ltd.**, Connellsville, PA (US)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell

Assistant Examiner—M. Kizilkaya

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon
Orkin & Hanson, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new Kalanchoe cultivar named 'Forever Maxi Rose'
characterized by its large rose-pink colored flowers, dense
inflorescence, semi-mounded growth habit and excellent
lateral and basal branching.

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Kalanchoe plant, botanically known as *Kalanchoe bloss-
feldiana*, and known by the cultivar name 'Forever Maxi
Rose'. 'Forever Maxi Rose' was developed in a controlled
breeding program in Ashtabula, Ohio by crossing Mikkelsen
Seedling No. 91-201-2 (seed parent) (unpatented) with
Mikkelsen Seedling No. 90-301-2 (pollen parent) (unpat-
ented). The seed and pollen parents are proprietary breeding
lines which have not been sold or made publicly available in
this country. The plant is perennial but typically used as an
annual in the floriculture industry.

Asexual reproduction by stem cuttings taken by the
inventor in Lompoc, Calif. has shown that the unique
features of this new Kalanchoe are stabilized and are repro-
duced true to type in successive propagations.

The following characteristics distinguish the new Kalan-
choe from [both its parent varieties and] other cultivated
Kalanchoes of this type known to the inventor. The charac-
teristics are described with comparative reference to the
cultivars Royalty (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,254) and Iztac (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 10,455).

1. 'Forever Maxi Rose' has rose-pink colored flowers of
Red Group 51A while 'Royalty' has deep rose colored
flowers of Pink Group 52A and 'Iztac' has being lighter rose
colored flowers of Red-Purple Group 58B.

2. 'Forever Maxi Rose' has larger flowers at 16 mm in
diameter than 'Royalty' (14 mm in diameter) and 'Iztac' (15
mm in diameter).

3. 'Forever Maxi Rose' has a much denser flower inflo-
rescence than 'Royalty' and 'Iztac' which each have more
open inflorescence.

4. 'Forever Maxi Rose' is intermediate in leaf length at 9
to 10 cm with 'Royalty' having 11 to 12 cm long leaves and
'Iztac' having 8 to 9 cm long leaves.

5. 'Forever Maxi Rose' has large lobes in crenate leaf
margin which is the same as 'Royalty' while the fine lobing
of 'Iztac' appears almost serrated.

6. 'Forever Maxi Rose' has a cyme inflorescence which is
similar to 'Royalty' and 'Iztac' has a compound umbel.

7. 'Forever Maxi Rose' is intermediate in flowering
response at 8.5 to 9 weeks with 'Iztac' being earlier at 8
weeks and 'Royalty' being later at 11 weeks.

8. 'Forever Maxi Rose' is intermediate in peduncle
strength with 'Royalty' being stronger and 'Iztac' weaker.

9. 'Forever Maxi Rose' and Royalty keep 5 to 7 days
longer than 'Iztac' under home conditions.

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The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of this cultivar, as described in detail
below, taken as a face view of the plant and showing the
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in a
colored reproduction of this type.

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar,
based on plants produced in greenhouses in Lompoc, Calif.
during the Winter season of the year. Plants were grown in
10 cm pots and measurements were taken 13 weeks after
rooted cuttings were planted. Height measurements were
taken from the soil line of the container. The plants were
grown at 16° C. night temperatures, 3000–4000 foot candles
of light, and 200 ppm nitrogen, 75 ppm potassium, and 200
ppm phosphorous nutritional levels, with trace elements
added. Habit of growth, foliage coloration, size of leaves,
and peduncle length will be greatly influenced by nutritional
and environmental conditions.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural
Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordi-
nary dictionary significance are used.

Parentage: A controlled cross between female parent
Mikkelsen Seedling No. 91-201-2 and male parent
Mikkelsen Seedling No. 90-301-2.

Propagation:

(A) *Type cutting*.—Stem tip cuttings up to 3 cm long.

(B) *Time to root*.—10 days at 21° C. summer; 12 days
at 21° C. winter.

(C) *Rooting habit*.—Fine, fibrous, abundant.

Plant description:

Habit and form of growth.—Semi-tall, semi-mounded,
excellent basal branching; flower clusters bloom
above foliage. Environment and use of growth regu-
lators will play a role in final height. Average height
is 25 cm and average width is 30 cm. Internode
length is typically 15 mm. Main stem diameter is 10
mm, stem texture is smooth, glabrous, and stem
color is Yellow-Green Group 147A.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple and opposite.
Size: Leaves are petiolate and petioles are Yellow-
Green Group 147A having a length of 15 mm and
width of 5 mm. Average, full grown leaves on a plant
when grown in a 10 cm pot are 9 to 10 cm long and
6.0 to 6.5 cm wide. Shape: Ovate with obtuse apex

and acute base. Texture: Glabrous; coriaceous and succulent. Margin: Crenate; shallow lobed. Color: Young foliage top side is Green Group 137A, underside is Yellow-Green Group 146A; mature foliage top side is Yellow-Green Group 147A, underside is Yellow-Green Group 147B.

Branching.—Average number of lateral branches is 8. The average lateral branch length is 20 cm and average lateral branch diameter is 5 mm. The branch texture is smooth, glabrous, and color is Yellow-Green Group 147A.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—Inflorescence is a compound dichasial cyme. Terminal flower on main axis opens first followed by the terminal flowers of the side branches, continuing with the subsequent development of branches in the inflorescence. Inflorescence is made up of the main stem and up to 8 or more lateral branches depending on growing schedule followed.

Natural flowering season.—Early January. Flowering time under controlled daylength (10 hours daylight, 14 hours darkness) at 20° C. in summer is 8.5 to 9 weeks; in winter is 10 to 10.5 weeks. Flowering time depends on temperature, light intensity and other growing conditions.

Flower buds.—Oblong, up to 10 mm long before showing color, developing to tubular as flower petals mature; sheathed in four (4) sepals colored Yellow-Green Group 144B. Sepals are individual with a lanceolate shape. Sepals are 8 mm long and 2 mm wide.

Flowers borne.—Compound dichasial cyme with primary peduncle being 4 mm in diameter just below the first branch of the inflorescence; length of peduncle will vary depending on growing conditions. The average number of peduncles is 10 with an average length of 15 cm, average diameter of 5 mm, smooth, glabrous texture, and Yellow-Green Group 147A color. The average number of pedicels is 250 with an average length of 3 mm, average diameter of 1 mm, smooth, glabrous texture, and Yellow-Green

Group 147A color. Pedicels vary in length depending on where they are in the inflorescence. Flower 16 mm in diameter.

Quantity of flowers.—Numerous flowers on the main stem plus the 8 or more lateral branches will have 30 or more flowers each. Approximate time period for bloom lastingness is 4 to 6 weeks. The florets are flat in shape.

Petals.—Shape: Almost rounded, top cuspidate. Color: Top side when opening is Red Group 50A fading to Red Group 51A. Underside is Red Group 55B at petal edge and Red Group 55D at petal center. Number of petals: 4. Size: Individual petals 7 mm wide and 8 mm long.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: 8 in number, with an average size of 3 mm not fused to the petal. Anthers: Flat, elliptical in shape, yellow-green in color. Filament color: Yellow-green. Pollen: Abundant, yellow. Pistils: Average of 4 per flower with an average size of 12 mm. Stigma: Flat in shape, mature color is white. Style color: Light green. Ovaries: 4 in number, size is 8 mm, green color.

Fertility.—The plants are fertile, but do not normally set seed under greenhouse or garden conditions, unless in a controlled crossing program.

Disease resistance: 'Flower Maxi Rose' has shown resistance to powdery mildew. No disease problems have been observed to date.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Semi-tall growth habit combined with good lateral and basal branching allows cultivar to be finished in a 15 cm pot from one cutting instead of the normal 3 cuttings.
2. Excellent flower coverage on upper half of plant due to excellent lateral and basal branching.
3. No or minimum amount of growth regulators needed.
4. Pinching is not required or recommended.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Kalanchoe plant named 'Forever Maxi Rose', as illustrated and described.

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