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**Kobayashi**

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED 'ECKALVEEN'**

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve Retrieval Software 2002/02 citations(s) for 'Eckalveen'.\*

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

\* cited by examiner

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **A01H 5/00**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./307**

A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named 'Eckalveen', characterized by its large inflorescences with bright red-colored flower bracts; dark green-colored leaves with red-colored petioles; uniform and mounded plant habit; early flowering; and good post-production longevity.

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./307**

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**2 Drawing Sheets**

PP11,124 P \* 11/1999 Fruehwirth ..... Plt./307

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION**

*Euphorbia pulcherrima*.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant, botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Eckalveen'.

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The new Poinsettia a naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Eckada, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,124. The new Poinsettia was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant within a population of plants of the cultivar Eckada in November, 1998 in a controlled environment in Oxnard, Calif.

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Asexual reproduction of the new Poinsettia by terminal cuttings taken at Encinitas, Calif., since December, 1998, has shown that the unique features of this new Poinsettia are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

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**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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

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1. Large inflorescences with bright red-colored flower bracts.

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2. Dark green-colored leaves with red-colored petioles.

3. Uniform and mounded plant habit.

4. Early flowering, natural season flower maturity date is November 20 for plants grown in Encinitas, Calif.; response time, about 8 weeks.

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5. Excellent post-production longevity.

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Plants of the new Poinsettia are most similar to plants of the parent, the cultivar Eckada. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Encinitas, Calif., plants of the new Poinsettia differed primarily from plants of the cultivar Eckada in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Poinsettia were not as freely branching as plants of the cultivar Eckada.

2. Plants of the new Poinsettia had larger leaves than plants of the cultivar Eckada.

3. Inflorescences of plants of the new Poinsettia had larger flower bracts than inflorescences of plants of the cultivar Eckada.

4. Plants of the new Poinsettia flowered about one week earlier than plants of the cultivar Eckada.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new Poinsettia, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Poinsettia.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Eckalveen' grown in a 16.5-cm container.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet comprises a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Eckalveen'.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a close-up view of typical leaves and flower bracts of 'Eckada' (top) and 'Eckalveen' (bottom).

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The new Poinsettia 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 aforementioned photographs, following observations and averaged measurements describe plants grown in Encinitas, Calif. during the winter under commercial practice in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 24° C., night temperatures about 19° C., and light levels about 4,000 foot-candles. Single plants were grown in 16.5-cm pots and pinched once. Plants were flowered under natural season short day/long night conditions. Plants were about 17 weeks from unrooted cuttings when the photographs and the detailed botanical description were taken.

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.

Botanical classification: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Eckalveen.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Eckada, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,124.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—Terminal cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots.*—About 10 days at 20 to 22° C.

*Time to develop roots.*—About 28 days at 20 to 22° C.

*Root description.*—Thick, fibrous and freely-branching.

Plant description:

*Plant form.*—Inverted triangle, top of plant rounded and mounding.

*Growth habit.*—Upright and uniform plant habit. Moderate vigor.

*Plant height.*—About 30 cm.

*Plant diameter or spread.*—About 53 cm.

*Lateral branch description.*—Quantity: About five lateral branches develop after pinching. Length: About 21 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Internode length: About 3 cm. Color: 146A.

*Foliage description.*—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About seven. Length: About 15 cm. Width: About 11 cm. Shape: Mostly elliptic with irregular lobing. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture: Upper surface: Glabrous. Lower surface: Slightly pubescent. Surface: Mostly flat. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Darker than 146A. Young foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Darker than 147A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 147C. Petiole: Length: About 4.2 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color: 59A.

Inflorescence description:

*Inflorescence type and habit.*—Inflorescences are compound corymbs of cyathia with colored flower bracts subtending the cyathia. Inflorescences are not fragrant. Inflorescences persistent.

*Natural flowering season.*—Autumn/winter in Northern Hemisphere. Flower initiation and development is induced under long nyctoperiod conditions. Response time, about 8 weeks; natural season flower maturity date is November 20 for plants grown in Encinitas, Calif.

*Post-production longevity.*—Plants of the new Poinsettia maintain good substance and bract color for about four weeks under interior conditions.

*Quantity of inflorescences per plant.*—One per lateral branch, about five.

*Inflorescence size.*—Diameter: About 33 cm. Height (depth): About 6 cm.

*Flower bracts.*—Quantity of flower bracts per inflorescence: About 14. Length, largest bracts: About 16.5 cm. Width, largest bracts: About 11 cm. Shape: Elliptic with irregular lobing. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, velvety. Surface: Mostly flat to slightly concave. Orientation: Mostly horizontal. Color: Developing or transitional bracts, upper surface: Irregular and random areas of 46B and darker than 147A, then becoming mostly 46B. Developing or transitional bracts, lower surface: Irregular and random areas of 46B and 147B, then becoming mostly 46B. Fully developed bracts, upper surface: 45A; color does not fade with subsequent development. Fully developed bracts, lower surface: 53C. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Same as ground color. Bract petiole: Length: About 2.8 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Color: 59A.

*Cyathia.*—Quantity: About 12 per corymb. Diameter of cyathia cluster: About 3 by 3.5 cm. Length: About 9 mm. Width: About 7 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Immature: 144A. Mature: 144A to 144B. Peduncle: Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Aspect: Strong, erect. Color: 144B. Stamens: Stamen number: About 15 per cyathium. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: 60A. Amount of pollen: Scarce. Pollen color: 12A. Pistils: None observed. Nectary number: One per cyathia. Nectary color: 14A.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to Poinsettias has not been observed on plants grown under commercial conditions.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named 'Eckalveen', as illustrated and described.

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