



US00PP13609P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Catt

(10) **Patent No.: US PP13,609 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Feb. 25, 2003**

(54) **SPIREA PLANT NAMED ‘WHITE GOLD’**
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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.
(21) **Appl. No.: 09/971,478**
(22) **Filed: Oct. 5, 2001**
(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl. Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Search** Plt./226, 263
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new cultivar of Spirea named ‘White Gold’ that is
characterized by its hardiness, compact habit, golden foliage
and clusters of diminutive cream-white flowers. In combi-
nation these traits set ‘White Gold’ apart from all other
existing varieties of Spirea known to the inventor.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Spirea japonica*.
Variety denomination: ‘White Gold’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Spirea, a deciduous ornamental. The new cultivar is
known botanically as *Spirea japonica* and will be referred to
hereinafter by the cultivar name ‘White Gold’.
The breeding for a Spirea with gold leaves and white
flowers began in 1993 in Hampshire, England when the
inventor crossed the female parent *Spirea japonica* var.
albiflora with the male parent *Spirea japonica* ‘Candlelight’
(unpatented). The resultant seedlings flowered in 1994 and
because none of the yellow-leaved seedlings exhibited white
flowers, a yellow seedling was selected and used as the
female parent and crossed with the male parent *Spirea*
japonica var. *albiflora*. As a result of this cross several
seedlings were produced which had gold leaves and white
flowers. When these seedlings were developed and flower-
ing freely, a final selection was made. ‘White Gold’ was
selected by the inventor in 1996.
The distinguishing characteristics of ‘White gold’ are
hardiness, compact habit, diminutive cream-white flowers
and golden yellow-green foliage. ‘White Gold’ is distin-
guishable from all other cultivars of *Spirea japonica* by its
cream-white flowers. The inventor has no knowledge of any
other cultivars of *Spirea japonica* which combine golden
foliage with cream-white flowers. All other golden-foliaged
cultivars of *Spirea japonica* known to the inventor exhibit
pink or mauve colored flowers.
‘White Gold’ was first asexually propagated by the inven-
tor in Hampshire, United Kingdom in 1996 using softwood
cuttings. Since that time, under careful observation, the
distinguishing characteristics have been determined stable
and uniform in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics
of the new Spirea cultivar ‘White Gold’. In combination
these traits set ‘White Gold’ apart from all other existing
varieties of Spirea known to the inventor. ‘White Gold’ has
not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic
differences may be observed with variations in
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however,
without any variance in genotype.

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1. Spirea ‘White Gold’ exhibits dense clusters of cream-
white flowers in summer.
2. Spirea ‘White Gold’ is 75 cm. in height and 75 cm. in
width.
3. Spirea ‘White Gold’ exhibits golden yellow-green
foliage.
4. Spirea ‘White Gold’ is winter hardy.
5. Spirea ‘White Gold’ exhibits a compact habit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the dis-
tinguishing traits of the new Spirea cultivar ‘White Gold’.
The plants in the photographs are 15 months old and were
grown out of doors in Arroyo Grande, Calif. in two-gallon
containers.
The photograph on sheet 1 illustrates the entire plant from
a side perspective.
The photograph on sheet 2 is a close-up view of the leaf
and buds.
The photograph on sheet 3 illustrates flowers fully
opened. All photographs are taken using conventional tech-
niques and although foliage colors may appear different
from actual colors due to light reflectance, they are as
accurate as possible by conventional photography.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the Spirea
cultivar named ‘White Gold’. Data was collected in Arroyo
Grande, Calif. from the inventor and plants grown in two-
gallon containers out of doors. The plants were approxi-
mately 15 months old at the time. Color determinations are
in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Society Colour
Chart except where general color terms of ordinary dictio-
nary significance are used. The growing requirements are
similar to the species. Under normal growing conditions
there are no known disease problems known to the inventor.

Botanical classification: *Spirea japonica* ‘White Gold’.
Common name: Bridal wreath.
Uses: Ornamental.
Parent: ‘White Gold’ is a hybrid resulting from the induced
hybridization of the following plants:
Female parent.—An unnamed yellow-leaved Spirea
seedling.
Male parent.—*Spirea japonica* var. *albiflora*.

Type: Shrub.
 Vigor: Vigorous.
 Habit: Compact.
 Height (two-gallon): 60 cm. in height.
 Width (two-gallon): 120 cm. in width.
 Hardiness: USDA Zone 5.
 Propagation: Softwood cuttings.
 Root system: Fibrous.
 Soil: Plant in well drained, moisture retentive soil that is moderately fertile.
 Sunlight: Plant in full sunlight.
 Plant sexuality: Bisexual.
 Time to initiate roots: 2 weeks are required for an initial cutting to produce roots.
 Crop time: 8–10 months are required to produce a finished one-gallon from a rooted cutting.
Seasonal interest.—Cream-white flowers in summer.
Stem.—Branching habit: Divergent. Internode length: 2–4.5 cm. between nodes. Stem diameter: 0.25 cm. in diameter. Stem length: 55 cm. in length. Shape: Cylindrical. Form: Closest to sinistorse. Surface: Puberulent and multicostate. Texture: Suffrutescent. Stipules: Absent. Stem color: 165B.
Foliage.—Type: Deciduous. Leaf arrangement: Alternate. Quantity of leaves: Approximately 125 per stem. Leaf division: simple. Leaf shape: Oval. Leaf base: Cuneate. Leaf apex: Acute. Leaf venation: Palmate. Vein color (adaxial surface): 147D. Vein color (abaxial surface): 145A. Leaf surface (adaxial): Puberulent. Leaf surface (abaxial): Puberulent. Leaf attachment: Petiolate. Petiole dimensions: 3 mm. in length and 1 mm. in diameter. Petiole color: 145A. Leaf margin: Crenulate. Leaf texture: Soft and flexible. Leaf length: 2–5 cm. in length. Leaf width: 2–3.5 cm. in width. Leaf color (adaxial surface): The leaf color is influenced by the degree of sunlight and can range between 144A and 153A. Leaf color (abaxial surface): The leaf color is influenced by the degree of sunlight and can range between 144A and 153A. Foliar fragrance: Absent.
Flower.—Inflorescence: Terminal corymb. Quantity of flowers: Approximately 30 per corymb. Persistent or

self-cleaning: Self-cleaning. Color of peduncle: 145A. Peduncle length: 2 cm. in length. Peduncle diameter: 1 mm. in diameter. Surface of peduncle: Puberulent. Diameter of corymb: 3 cm. in diameter. Shape of flower: Open campanulate. Sexuality: Bisexual. Aspect: Facing upwards. Bud shape: Globose. Bud color: 58A. Bud surface: Puberulent. Bud dimensions: 3 mm. in length and 3 mm. in diameter. Petals: Five in number. Color of petals: 155A. Shape of petal: Ovate. Fused or unfused: Petals are unfused. Dimensions of petal: 3 mm. in length and 3 mm. in width. Calyx shape: Cupulate. Calyx dimensions: 4 mm. in width and 2 mm. in length. Color of calyx: 145A. Surface of calyx: Puberulent. Sepals: Five in number. Blooming period: Spring and summer. Fragrance: Absent.

Reproduction organs.—Stamens: Polyandrous. Approximately 30 in number. Dimensions of stamen: 4–6 mm. in length and less 0.50 mm. in width. Color of stamen filament: 155A. Stamen attachment: Inserted at margin of calyx tube. Dimensions of anther: Less than 0.25 mm. in width and less than 0.50 cm. in length. Pollen color: 161A. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Anther color: 161A. Pistil: One. Color of pistil: 155A. Dimensions of pistil: 3 mm. in height and less than 0.50 mm. in diameter. Stigma color: 155A. Stigma: Five filaments. Dimensions of filaments: 2 mm. in length and less than 0.50 mm. in width. Style color: 155A. Ovary position: Inferior. Ovary color: 145C. Ovary shape: Globose. Ovary dimensions: 1 mm. in diameter and 1 mm. in height.
Seed.—Seed surface: Glabrous. Seed shape: Oval and alate. Seed color: 159A. Seed dimensions: Less than 0.50 mm. in diameter and less than 0.50 mm. in length.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of Spirea plant named 'White Gold' as described and illustrated.

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