



US00PP13630P29

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP13,630 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Mar. 11, 2003**

(54) **HIBISCUS PLANT NAMED ‘OLD YELLA’**

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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.: 09/607,101**
(22) **Filed: Jun. 29, 2000**
(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl. Plt./257**
(58) **Field of Search Plt./257**

(56) **References Cited**
PUBLICATIONS
UPOV-ROM GTITM computer database, GTI JOUVE
retrieval software, 2001/02, citations for ‘Old Yella’.*
* cited by examiner
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of winter hardy hibiscus plant
named ‘Old Yella’ is the result of a unique hybridization.
This new and distinct cultivar is characterized primarily as
to novelty by its extreme cold hardiness to Zone 4, its large,
thick-textured, pale yellow flowers and its green-leaved
plants with bright yellow buds before onset of flowering, its
vigorous and uniform growth habit, and its floriferous nature
from midsummer until frost.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The new plant of this invention is the result of a unique
hybridization, with the breeding achievement being evi-
denced in the outstanding combination of characteristics
exhibited by this new and distinct Hibiscus plant, which
include:
(a) Refined ovate, green leaves which have relatively
smooth margins and yellow buds all over the plant
which compliments the landscape;
(b) Large flowers that are outstanding for their pale
yellow, thick-textured petals with dark burgandy cen-
ters and medium to heavy ruffling;
(c) The plant being very floriferous with flowers that stay
open at least one full day;
(d) The plant being medium-sized, but vigorous with
compact and uniform breaking action which gives it
unique landscape utility; and
(e) The plant being so hardy that it can consistently
withstand winter temperatures at least –30 degrees
Fahrenheit.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

‘Old Yella’ was the result of a 40-year breeding program.
Its ancestry includes *Hibiscus moscheutos*. More
specifically, the plant resulted from multiple crossings with
‘Bright Eye’, a Fleming variety (non-patented which is a
Hibiscus moscheutos. The seedling which most nearly met
all of the above named standards was selected.

This new plant first bloomed in the summer if 1986 and
was selected by David Fleming and Gretchen Zwetzig on
David Fleming’s property in Lincoln, Nebr. Asexual propa-
gation of the plant by cuttings and root division has shown
that the unique and distinguishing features of the plant are
faithfully transmitted from generation to generation and
appear to be fixed.

Since its origin, the plant has bloomed from midsummer
until frost, while exhibiting the aforementioned distinctive
characteristics. This hardy Hibiscus plant greatly contributes

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to the market with its sheer beauty and utter refinement, its
compact growth habit, its enhanced resistance to disease and
insects, its stability through extremes in rain and drought,
and its extreme hardiness.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The flower, bud, foliage, and growth habit of the cultivar
are shown in the attached photograph, More specifically, the
photograph is a close-up of the flower and the leaf.
The colors are as true as is reasonably possible to attain
in photographic illustrations of this type. The colors illus-
trated may be slightly off due to light reflectance.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

What follows is a detailed description of the new cultivar.
The specific color descriptions are in accordance with the
Dictionary of Color (Maerz and Paul), while general color
recitations are consistent with ordinary American color
terminology.
‘Old Yella’ has not been observed under all possible
environment conditions. It is to be understood that the
phenotype may vary significantly with variations in envi-
ronment such as temperature, light intensity, and day length,
and day length, without, however any difference in genotype
of the plant. The following botanical characteristics and
observations are gathered from the plant when grown in
Lincoln, Nebr. (USDA Zone 4).

THE PLANT

Parentage
Seed parent.—*Hibiscus moscheutos* ‘Bright Eye’.
Pollen parent.—*Hibiscus moscheutos* ‘Bright Eye’.
Origin: A selected seedling from a stated cross.
Type of plant: Hardy, herbaceous perennial.
Classification: Variety of Hibiscus plant.
Propagation: Relatively easy to propagate; holds its distin-
guishing characteristics through successive cuttings and
divison.

Size: About 3½–4 feet tall and about 2½ ft. wide.

Form: Symmetrical annual growth from perennial roots.

Habit: Upright and uniformly branched.

Growth: Vigorous; medium and compact. Full grown (4 ft.) in 2 years.

Hardiness: Hardy to at least –30 degrees Fahrenheit.

General health: Plant is very disease resistant against rot, aphids, spider mites, scale, white fly, etc.; sturdy through excessive drought, rain, or wind.

Propagation: Relatively easy and fast rooting in approximately 2 weeks.

Foliage:

1. *Arrangement*.—Alternate.

2. *Shape*.—Juvenile: Variable, ovate leaf. Rounded base shape. Mature: Refined, ovate leaf with entire to mildly serrate margins and acute apices; rounded base.

3. *Size*.—Mature leaf (petiole base to apex): Length is about 6½ inches or 16 cm, width is about 5 inches or 13 cm.

4. *Color*.—Young leaves (upper side): slightly lighter than L-11, PLATE 22, page 67, “Paradise”. Mature leaves: (upper side) — slightly darker than I-11, PLATE 22, page 67, “Paradise”. Veins: K-1, PLATE 46, page 115. Coloration of the lower leaf surface: Slightly lighter than F-7, PLATE 22, page 67.

5. *Surface texture*.—Low sheen.

6. *Petiole length*.—About 2½ inches or 8 cm.

7. *Petiole color*.—Green to K-1, PLATE 46, page 115.

Stems: The stems are stout at the base, becoming more slender toward the apices; coloration is consistent with the petiole.

THE FLOWER

Blooming period: Profuse from July until frost.

Flower diameter: Large; about 12 inches, (24 cm).

Borne: Singly in leaf axils, from midpoint of stems upward.

Bloom duration: Individual bloom lasts at least one full day.

Form: Campanulate; petals are also very overlapping.

Bud:

1. *Length*.—About 1¾ inches (or 4 cm) on day before opening.

2. *Color*.—J-1, PLATE 10, page 43, “Sulfur”.

3. *Surface texture*.—Semi-glabrous.

4. *Duration*.—One to two weeks.

Corolla: Having 5 petals.

1. *Petal character and dimensions*.—Campanulate and very overlapping. Length is about 5 inches or 12.5 cm. Width is about 4½ inches or 11.5 cm.

2. *Coloration*.—Pale, luminescent yellow with a burgundy red center. (a) Pale yellow petals: C-1, PLATE 10, page 43. Coloration of lower petal surface: C-1, PLATE 10, page 43. (b) Veination in petals: Slightly lighter than C-1, PLATE 10, page 43. (c) Eye Zone: H-6, PLATE 7, page 37.

3. *Texture*.—Smooth.

4. *Substance*.—Thick.

5. *Shape*.—Campanulate and very overlapping.

Reproductive organs:

1. *Staminal column*.—Stamen along basal two-thirds. Stamen length: About 1½ inches (or 4 cm). Stamen color: A-1, PLATE 1, page 25. Pollen color: D-1, PLATE 9, page 41.

2. *Style*.—Terminates upper one-third of staminal column. Stigmatic lobe color: G-1, PLATE 9, page 41.

Calyx: Connate at the base; about 2 inches (or 9 cm) in length.

Color: Medium green.

Stipules: None.

Epicalyx: Whorl of bracts.

1. *Shape*.—10 to 12 slender, sword-shaped bractlets.

2. *Length*.—About 1¾ inches (or 4 cm).

3. *Color*.—K-8, PLATE 19, page 61.

Peduncle:

1. *Length*.—About 1½ inches (or 4 cm).

2. *Strength*.—Stiff and sturdy.

3. *Color*.—Light to medium green.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

This plant, as a hybridized hardy Hibiscus, is valuable to the landscape market for its improvements in thicker-textured and uniquely colored flowers and buds, refined green foliage on a more compact plant, its all-around vigor, good braking action, and adaptation to extreme environments, including the ability to consistently survive winter temperatures of at least –30 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Hibiscus plant, as herein shown and described, characterized by its compact nature, refined green, ovate foliage, its large, ruffled, pale yellow flowers and yellow buds, its vigor, and its hardiness.

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