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Dümmen

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED ‘DUELEPINK’**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named ‘Duelepink’, characterized by its inflorescences with inflorescences with dark pink-colored flower bracts; dark green-colored leaves with green-colored petioles; uniform and rounded plant habit; early flowering; large number of cyathia per corymb; and excellent post-production longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR
DENOMINATION**

Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd. cultivar Duelepink.

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 ‘Duelepink’.

The new Poinsettia is a product of a mutation induction program conducted by the Inventor in Rheinberg, Germany. The objective of the program is to create new Poinsettia cultivars with uniform plant habit and attractive flower bract coloration.

The new Poinsettia originated by exposing unrooted cuttings of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Duewi, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,334, to gamma radiation in Rheinberg, Germany in 1998. The new Poinsettia was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant within a population of irradiated plants in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany in 1998. The selection of this plant was based on its attractive flower bract coloration and uniform plant habit.

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

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Inflorescences with dark pink-colored flower bracts.
2. Dark green-colored leaves with green-colored petioles.
3. Uniform and rounded plant habit.
4. Early flowering; response time, about eight weeks.
5. Large number of cyathia per corymb.
6. Excellent post-production longevity.

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Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of the parent cultivar in flower bract color as plants of the cultivar Duewi had red-colored flower bracts.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Poinsettia differed from plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Poinsettia were shorter than plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink.
2. Plants of the new Poinsettia had larger leaves and longer petioles than plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink.
3. Plants of the new Poinsettia flowered later than plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink.
4. Flower bract color of plants of the new Poinsettia did not fade as quickly as flower bract color of plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink.
5. Plants of the new Poinsettia had larger cyathia clusters and more cyathia per corymb than plants of the cultivar Malibu Pink.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates 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 photograph differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Poinsettia.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a single flowering plant of ‘Duelepink’ grown in a container.

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 Rheinberg, Germany during the winter under commercial

practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day and night temperatures about 22° C. and light levels about 4,500 lux. Single plants were grown in 13-cm pots and pinched once. Plants were flowered under natural season short day/long night conditions. Plants were about 16 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, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

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

Parentage: Induced mutation of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Duewi, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,334.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Vegetative terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 9 days at 22° C.

Winter: About 13 days at 22° C.

Time to develop roots.—Summer: About 21 days at 22° C. Winter: About 28 days at 22° C.

Root description.—Thick, fibrous and white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Inverted triangle, top of plant rounded.

Growth habit.—Upright and uniform plant habit.

Plant height.—About 19.5 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 40 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity per plant: About eight lateral branches develop after pinching. Length: About 17 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1.2 cm. Color: 137A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About 11. Length: About 10.2 cm. Width: About 7.3 cm. Shape: Mostly ovate with irregular lobing. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Surface: Mostly flat. Color: Young and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 136A. Young and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137B. Venation, upper surface: 144B. Venation, lower surface: 139D. Petiole: Length: About 6.6 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144B.

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 eight weeks.

Post-production longevity.—Plants of the new Poinsettia maintain good substance and bract color for about eight weeks under interior conditions and about 12 to 14 weeks under greenhouse conditions.

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

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 20 cm. Height (depth): About 3 cm.

Flower bracts.—Quantity of flower bracts per inflorescence: About 14. Length, largest bracts: About 9.9 cm. Width, largest bracts: About 5.4 cm. Shape: Mostly ovate with irregular lobing. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, velvety. Surface: Rugose. Orientation: Mostly horizontal to slightly upright. Color: Developing bracts, upper and lower surfaces: 47A. Fully developed bracts, upper surface: 51A; color fading to 51B with subsequent development. Fully developed bracts, lower surface: 51C. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Same as lamina. Bract petiole: Length: About 1.7 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 47A.

Cyathia.—Quantity of cyathia per corymb: About 15. Diameter of cyathia cluster: About 2.8 cm. Length: About 7 mm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color, immature and mature: 144B. Peduncle: Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength/aspect: Strong, curved. Color: 144B. Stamens: Quantity of stamens per cyathium: About 15. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 0.9 mm. Anther color: 9A. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: 14A. Pistils: Quantity of pistils per cyathium: One. Pistil length: About 8 mm. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: 144C. Stigma color: 59A. Ovary color: 144B. Nectaries: Quantity of nectaries per cyathium: One. Length: About 3.5 mm. Color: 15B.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Poinsettia have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 12 to 40° C.

It is claimed:

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

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