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Zwetzig et al.

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(54) **HIBISCUS PLANT NAMED**
'DREAMCATCHER'

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./257**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./257**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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

A new and distinct cultivar of winter hardy hibiscus plant
named 'Dreamcatcher' is the result of a unique hybridiza-
tion. This new and distinct cultivar is characterized primarily
as to novelty by, its extreme cold hardiness to Zone 4, large,
thick-textured, "Quilted" pink flowers and its "Maple-
shaped" green leaves with a purple cast, compactness of
about 3 feet, its vigorous and uniform growth habit, and its
floriferous nature from midsummer until frost.

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(22) Filed: **Jul. 30, 2002**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

1 Drawing Sheet

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BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

Hibiscus moscheutos × *H. coccineus*.

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, "Maple-shaped" green leaves with a purple cast
and relatively smooth margins which combined compli-
ments the landscape;
- (b) Large flowers that are outstanding for their pink over-
lapping petals with a "Quilted" appearance (flowers are
segmented into squares which are puffed up);
- (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 com-
pact and uniform breaking action which gives it unique
landscape utility; and
- (e) The plant being so hardy that it can consistently with-
stand winter temperatures of at least -30 degrees Fahr-
enheit.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'Dreamcatcher' was the result of a 40-year breeding
program. Its ancestry includes *Hibiscus moscheutos* and
Hibiscus coccineus. More specifically, the plant resulted
from multiple crossings with 'Pink Perfection' a Fleming
Hibiscus moscheutos (nonpatented) and '42' a Fleming
Hibiscus coccineus (nonpatented). The seedling which most
nearly met all of the above named standards was selected.

This new plant first bloomed in the summer of 1990 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.

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Since its origin, the plant has bloomed from midsummer
until frost, while exhibiting the aforementioned distinctive
characteristics. This Hardy Hibiscus plant greatly contrib-
utes 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 and foliage 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
R.H.S Colour Chart, while general color recitations are
consistent with ordinary American color terminology.

'Dreamcatcher' 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,
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*, 'Pink Perfection'
an unpatented Fleming seedling.
 - Pollen parent*.—*Hibiscus coccineus* '42' an unpatented
Fleming seedling.
- Origin: A selected seedling from stated cross.
- Type of plant: Hardy, herbaceous perennial.
- Classification: Variety of Hardy Hibiscus plant.

Propagation: Relatively easy to propagate; holds its distinguishing characteristics through successive cuttings and division.

Size: About 3–3½ feet tall and about 3 ft. wide.

Form: Symmetrical annual growth from perennial roots.

Habit: Upright and uniformly branched.

Growth: Vigorous; medium and compact. Full grown (3–3½ 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: 3-lobed, “Maple-like” leaves with a rounded base shape. Mature: Refined, “Maple-like”, 3–5 lobed leaf with entire to mildly serrate margins and acute apices; rounded base.
3. *Size*.—Mature leaf (petiole base to apex): Length is about 4¼ inches or 10.5 cm, width is about 3¾ inches or 9.7 cm.
4. *Color*.—Young leaves (upper side): 137-A, (purple cast) between N-92 and N-187. Mature leaves: (upper side): 137-A, (purple cast) between N-92 and N-187. Veins: 191-A. Coloration of the lower leaf surface: Closest to 191-A.
5. *Surface texture*.—Low to medium sheen.
6. *Petiole length*.—About 1¼ inches or 3.5 cm.
7. *Petiole color*.—191-A.

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: Medium to large; about 11 inches (25 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 2 inches (or 5 cm) on day before opening.
2. *Color*.—63-A.

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 5½ inches or 12.7 cm. Width is about 5 inches or 12 cm.

2. *Coloration*.—Pale pink petals. (a) Pale pink petals: Between 65-A and 69-C. Coloration of lower petal surface: Slightly lighter than 69-C. (b) Veination in petals: 46-A. (c) Eye Zone: 46-A.

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 1¾ inches (or 4.8 cm). Stamen color: 67-A, and 69-B. Pollen color: 8-B.

2. *Style*.—Terminates upper one-third of staminal column. Stigmatic lobe color: 155-B.

Calyx: Connate at the base; about 3½ inches (or 8.5 cm) in length. Color: Medium green.

Stipules: None.

Epicalyx: Whorl of bracts.

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

2. *Length*.—About 1 inch (or 1.5 cm).

3. *Color*.—43-A.

Peduncle:

1. *Length*.—About 2¾ inches (or 6 cm).

2. *Strength*.—Stiff and sturdy.

3. *Color*.—Light to medium green with slight reddish-purple cast.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

This plant, as a hybridized Hardy Hibiscus, is valuable to the landscape market for its improvements in uniquely textured and colored pink flowers, refined, “Maple-like”, green with a purple cast foliage on a much more compact plant, its all-around vigor, good breaking 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 Hardy Hibiscus plant, as herein shown and described.

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