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Drewlow

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED 'WINTERFEST PINK'**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named 'Winterfest Pink', characterized by its uniform plant growth habit; dark green-colored leaves with red-colored petioles; mid-season flowering habit; inflorescences with pink-colored flower bracts; and excellent post-production longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR DENOMINATION

Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd. cultivar Winterfest Pink.

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 'Winterfest Pink'.

The new Poinsettia is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Lompoc, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new Poinsettia cultivars with uniform plant habit and attractive flower bract coloration.

The new Poinsettia is a induced mutation of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Winterfest Red, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently. The new Poinsettia was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant within a population of irradiated plants of the cultivar Winterfest Red in a controlled environment in Lompoc, Calif. 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 Lompoc, Calif., 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 'Winterfest Pink'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Winterfest Pink' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Uniform plant growth habit.
2. Dark green-colored leaves with reddish-colored petioles.
3. Mid-season flowering habit.
4. Inflorescences with pink-colored flower bracts.
5. Excellent post-production longevity.

Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of the parent cultivar in flower bract coloration as plants of the cultivar Winterfest Red have red-colored flower bracts.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of the cultivar 490 Pink, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,817. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new Poinsettia differed from plants of the cultivar 490 Pink in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Poinsettia were taller and not as outwardly spreading as plants of the cultivar 490 Pink.
2. Plants of the new Poinsettia had yellow green-colored stems whereas plants of the cultivar 490 Pink had reddish-colored stems.
3. Plants of the new Poinsettia flowered about 7 to 10 days later than plants of the cultivar 490 Pink under controlled photoperiod conditions.
4. Plants of the new Poinsettia had tighter cyathia clusters than plants of the cultivar 490 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 may 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 top perspective view of a single flowering plant of 'Winterfest Pink' 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 photograph and, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Lompoc, Calif. during the fall and winter under commercial practice in a fiberglass-covered greenhouse with night temperatures about 16° C. and light levels about 3,000 to 4,000 foot-candles. Single plants were grown in 15-cm pots, pinched

once, and flowered under controlled 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, 1995 edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Winterfest Pink.

Parentage: Induced mutation of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. cultivar Winterfest Red, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Vegetative terminal cuttings.

Time to produce rooted young plants.—Summer: About 14 days at 21° C. Winter: About 18 days at 21° C.

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

Plant description:

Growth habit.—Upright and uniform plant habit; inverted triangle; vigorous.

Plant height.—About 28 to 30 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 35 to 40 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity: Plants pinched to five or six leaves develop one lateral branch per node. Strength: Strong. Color: Close to 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Length: About 10 to 11 cm. Width: About 7 to 8 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Surface: Rugose. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: 147A. Young foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 139A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137A. Petioles: Length: About 5 to 6 cm. Texture: Glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 185D.

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 short day/long night conditions. Mid-season flowering; response time, about 8.5 weeks, under controlled photoperiod conditions.

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

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

Inflorescence diameter.—About 25 to 30 cm.

Flower bracts.—Quantity of flower bracts: About 20 to 25 per inflorescence. Length, largest bracts: About 13 to 14 cm. Width, largest bracts: About 6.5 to 7.5 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire with irregular lobing. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Surface: Rugose. Orientation: Mostly horizontal. Color: Developing bracts, upper and lower surfaces: 53D. Fully developed bracts, upper surface: 54B. Fully developed bracts, lower surface: 54A.

Cyathia.—Quantity of cyathia: About 15 to 20 per corymb. Diameter of cyathia cluster: About 4 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 144A. Stamens: Quantity of stamens: At least 10 per cyathium. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther color: 61C. Filament color: 61C. Pollen color: Close to 14A. Pistils: Quantity of pistils: One per cyathium. Style color: 144C. Stigma color: 61C. Ovaries: Quantity of ovaries: Three per cyathium. Color: 144A. Nectaries: Quantity of nectaries: One per cyathium. Color: Close to 12A.

Disease resistance: Plants of the new Poinsettia have been observed to be resistant to Botrytis.

It is claimed:

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

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