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Bevelander

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(54) **HIBISCUS PLANT NAMED ‘CHARLESTON’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*
Varietal Denomination: ‘Charleston’

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct Hibiscus plant named ‘Charleston’,
characterized by its compact, upright and uniform plant
habit that is appropriate for container production; freely
branching habit; glossy dark green leaves; freely flowering
habit; red-colored flowers; and good resistance to flower bud
abscission.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Hibiscus*
rosa-sinensis cultivar ‘Charleston’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Hibiscus, botanically known as *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*,
and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Charleston’.

The new Hibiscus is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Amstelveen, The
Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to
create new compact freely-branching and freely-flowering
Hibiscus cultivars appropriate for container production.

The new Hibiscus originated from a cross-pollination
made by the Inventor in Amstelveen, The Netherlands, of a
proprietary *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* selection, identified as
code No. 10.327, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent
with a proprietary *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* selection, desig-
nated as code No. 5.923, not patented, as the male, or pollen,
parent. The cultivar Charleston was discovered and selected
by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of
the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in
Amstelveen, The Netherlands, in 2000.

Asexual reproduction of the new Hibiscus by vegetative
terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in
Amstelveen, The Netherlands, has shown that the unique
features of this new Hibiscus are stable and reproduced true
to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Charleston has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment and cultural prac-
tices such as temperature and light intensity without, how-
ever, any variance in genotype.

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

1. Compact, upright and uniform plant habit that is
appropriate for container production.

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2. Freely branching habit.
3. Glossy dark green leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Red-colored flowers.

6. Good resistance to flower bud abscission.

Compared to plants of the parents, the proprietary Hibis-
cus selections code No. 10.327 and 5.923, plants of the new
Hibiscus are more upright, more freely branching, and more
freely flowering.

Plants of the new Hibiscus can be compared to plants of
the Hibiscus cultivar ‘Paramaribo’, not patented. In side-
by-side comparisons conducted in Amstelveen, The
Netherlands, plants of the new Hibiscus differed from plants
of the cultivar Paramaribo in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Hibiscus were more vigorous, shorter,
and broader than plants of the cultivar Paramaribo.
2. Plants of the new Hibiscus were more freely flowering
than plants of the cultivar Paramaribo.
3. Plants of the new Hibiscus had larger flowers than
plants of the cultivar Paramaribo.
4. Flower color of plants of the new Hibiscus was more
intense red than flower color of plants of the cultivar
Paramaribo.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new Hibiscus, 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 Hibiscus. The photograph comprises a side perspec-
tive view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Charleston’ grown
in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observa-
tions and measurements describe plants grown in
Amstelveen, The Netherlands, grown in 15-cm container in

a glass-covered greenhouse during the spring and summer under conditions which closely approximate commercial production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 15 to 25° C. and light levels were about 500 klux. Plants were about two years old when the photograph and the description were taken. In the 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: *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* cultivar Charleston.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* designated as code No. 10.327, not patented.

Male or pollen parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* designated as code No. 5.923, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 25 days at a temperature of 23° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About 40 days at a temperature of 22° C.

Root description.—Thick; whitish in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately vigorous; freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Compact, upright and uniform plant habit; appropriate for container production. Vigorous growth habit.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, usually about three or four lateral branches.

Plant height.—About 25 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 40 to 45 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 10 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Internode length: About 2 to 2.5 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 200C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 8 cm. Width: About 5.5 cm. Shape: Roughly cordate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Cordate. Margin: Irregularly serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young leaves, upper and lower surfaces: 146A; glossy. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker than 147A; glossy. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 147A. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 146A. Petiole: Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Darker than 147A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement/appearance.—Rounded flowers arranged singly at terminal leaf axils. Freely flowering with usually about five to six flower buds and/or open flowers per terminal apex. Flowers face mostly upright. Flowers are open for about one day. Flowers persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Usually spring and summer or during periods of warm weather.

Flower diameter.—About 8 cm.

Flower length (height).—About 4 cm.

Flower bud (just before showing color).—Resistance to abscission: Plants of the new Hibiscus have been observed to resist flower bud drop. Length: About 4 to 5 cm. Diameter: About 1 to 1.5 cm. Shape: Oblong, elliptical. Color: 147A.

Petals.—Arrangement: Corolla consists of five petals that are overlapping towards apex. Length: About 6 to 7 cm. Width: About 5 to 6 cm. Shape: Spatulate or fan-shaped. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Weakly serrated. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous, satiny. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 43A. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 46C. Throat: 53A.

Sepals.—Appearance: Five or six sepals fused into a tubular star-shaped calyx. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 1 cm. Shape: Narrowly oblong. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 7 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Angle: Mostly upright. Strength: Strong, rigid. Texture: Smooth. Color: Darker than 146A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Numerous, about 60 per flower. Anther shape: Globular. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 12A. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 15A. Gynoecium: Pistil number: One per flower. Pistil length: About 6 to 7 cm. Style length: About 4 to 5 cm. Style texture: Smooth, waxy. Style color: Towards base, 53A; mid-section and towards apex, 33A. Stigma appearance: Five, rounded. Stigma color: Close to 44A. Ovary color: Close to 154C to 154D.

Fruit/seed.—Fruit and seed production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Hibiscus have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Hibiscus.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Hibiscus plant named 'Charleston', as illustrated and described.

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