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

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(54) **COPROSMA PLANT NAMED ‘FIRE BURST’**

(50) Latin Name: *Coprosma hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Fire Burst**

(76) Inventor: **Richard G. Ware**, Oak Road, R.D. 2,
Napier (NZ)

(*) 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.: **10/624,105**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 21, 2003**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./226**

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV–ROM GTITM Computer Database, 2003/05, GTI
Jouve Retrieval Software, citation ‘Fire Burst’.*

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Anne Marie Grunberg

Assistant Examiner—Susan McCormick

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Coprosma plant named ‘Fire Burst’,
characterized by its upright and somewhat outwardly
spreading plant form; freely branching growth habit; and
dark green, pale pink and bright ed tri-colored foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: Coprosma
hybrida cultivar Fire Burst.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Coprosma plant, botanically known as Coprosma
hybrida, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Fire Burst’.

The new Coprosma was discovered by the Inventor in
1999 in a controlled environment in Palmerston North, New
Zealand, as a naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of
the Coprosma hybrida cultivar Rainbow Surprise, not pat-
ented. The new Coprosma was selected by the Inventor on
the basis of its uniquely-colored foliage.

Asexual reproduction of the new Coprosma by cuttings in
a controlled environment in Palmerston, New Zealand since
Aug. 10, 1999, has shown that the unique features of this
new Coprosma are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Fire Burst have not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature and light intensity without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

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

1. Upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant form.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Dark green, pale pink and bright red tri-colored foliage.

Plants of the cultivar Fire Burst are most similar to plants
of the parent, the cultivar Rainbow Surprise. Plants of the
new Coprosma differ from plants of the cultivar Rainbow
Surprise in foliage coloration as plants of the new Coprosma
have leaves with dark green-colored centers and bright
red-colored margins whereas plants of the cultivar Rainbow

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Surprise have leaves with medium green-colored centers and
bright pink-colored margins.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

5 The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new Coprosma, showing the
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed
10 botanical description which accurately describe the colors of
the new Coprosma.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical plant of ‘Fire Burst’ grown in
15 a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up
view of typical leaves of ‘Fire Burst’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

20 In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition,
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-
cance are used. Plants used for the photographs and the
following description where about three years old and grown
25 under outdoor field conditions which closely approximate
commercial production conditions in Boskoop, The Neth-
erlands. The photographs and description were taken in
December, 2002. At this time, day temperatures ranged from
–4 to 4° C. and night temperatures ranged from –8 to 3° C.

30 Botanical classification: Coprosma hybrida cultivar Fire
Burst.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the
Coprosma hybrida cultivar Rainbow Surprise, not pat-
35 ented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 18 days at 25°
C. Winter: About 15 days at 15° C.

40 *Time to produce a rooted cutting*.—Summer: About
118 days at 25° C. Winter: About 215 days at 25° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; medium to fine in thickness; wiry.

Plant description:

Form.—Perennial evergreen shrub; upright and somewhat outwardly spreading; inverted triangle, broadly upright plant form; freely branching, dense and bushy habit; moderately vigorous.

Plant height.—About 35 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 31 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: About 17; pinching is not required, but will improve branching. Length: About 15.4 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color, young: 143B. Color, mature: 197A to 197C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite, simple; sessile. Length: About 2.7 cm. Width: About 1 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire; slightly wavy. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Thick, leathery; smooth, glabrous. Luster: glossy. Venation pattern: pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: Towards the base, 143A; towards the apex, 147A to 139A; surrounded by 39C; towards margins, 53D. Developing foliage,

lower surface: Between 189A and 191A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Center, between 137A and 139A; surrounded by 31B; towards margins, 53D. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 191A; towards margins, 37B. Venation, upper surface: Midvein, 137A; lateral veins, same as lamina. Venation: lower surface: 191A.

Stipules.—Arrangement: Two minute stipules at leaf base. Length: About 3 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Narrowly oblanceolate. Color: 191B overlain with slight reddish tint.

Flower description: Flower development has not been observed.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Coprosma are hardy to USDA Zones 8 to 9 and have been observed to tolerate temperatures as high as 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Coprosma plant named 'Fire Burst', as illustrated and described.

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