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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Hirose(10) **Patent No.:** US PP15,452 P2
(45) **Date of Patent:** Dec. 21, 2004(54) **PIERIS PLANT NAMED 'KATSURA'**PP4,794 P * 11/1981 Verkade Plt./226
PP7,872 P * 5/1992 Belgiorne Plt./226(50) Latin Name: *Pieris japonica*
Varietal Denomination: Katsura(76) Inventor: **Yoshimichi Hirose**, Y. Hirose, 3-20-14
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(JP), 740-0022(*) 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.: **10/300,106**(22) Filed: **Nov. 20, 2002**(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **A01H 5/00**(52) U.S. Cl. **Plt./226**(58) Field of Search **Plt./226**(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP4,111 P * 9/1977 Zebehazy Plt./226

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[http://www.esveld.nl/engels.htm.*](http://www.esveld.nl/engels.htm)[http://www.esveld.nl/dialijsten/dialistgPieris.html.*](http://www.esveld.nl/dialijsten/dialistgPieris.html)UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve
Retrieval Software 2003/03 Citation(s) for 'Katsura'.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Pieris* named 'Katsura' that is distinguished by a broad, bushy habit, wine-red leaves that later turn green and rose-colored flowers in spring. In combination these traits set 'Katsura' apart from all other existing varieties of *Pieris* known to the inventors.

3 Drawing Sheets**1**

Genus: *Pieris*.
Species: *japonica*.
Demonination: Katsura.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of lily-of-the-valley shrub and is a perennial that is grown for use as an ornamental landscape and container plant. The new invention is known botanically as *Pieris japonica* and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar name 'Katsura'.

'Katsura' was discovered by the inventor in 1986 in a cultivated area of Kazakai, Hirata, Japan as a sport of the parent plant *Pieris japonica* (unpatented). The inventor is a collector of plants and author of numerous books on the subject of variegated plants, and observed the unique qualities of 'Katsura'. The inventor selected 'Katsura' for its dark red new foliage, and rose-colored flowers. The wine-red foliage turns dark green.

The distinguishing characteristics of 'Katsura' are, continuous new growth through spring and summer, large glossy leaves that are wine-red in color before turning green, and rose-colored flowers. For best performance 'Katsura' requires semi-shade or sun, and slightly acidic soil with a pH of 4.5 to 5.5.

The closest comparison plant is *Pieris japonica* 'Red Mill' (not patented). 'Katsura' is distinguishable from 'Red Mill' by flower color, dark red new growth, and large glossy leaves.

The first asexual reproduction of 'Katsura' was carried out by the inventor in 1989 in order to provide a plant for evaluation and further multiplication at the nursery firm Fa. C. Esveld in Boskoop, The Netherlands. The method used

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was softwood cuttings. Since that time subsequent generations have been determined stable and true to type.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new *Pieris* cultivar. These traits in combination distinguish 'Katsura' from all other existing varieties of *Pieris* known to the inventors. 'Katsura' has not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

1. *Pieris* 'Katsura' exhibits a broad, upright, bushy habit.
2. *Pieris* 'Katsura' exhibits rose-colored flowers and glossy leaves.
3. *Pieris* 'Katsura' exhibits new foliage that is wine-red in color and later changes to dark green.
4. *Pieris* 'Katsura' blooms in early spring.
5. *Pieris* 'Katsura' reaches 300 cm. in height and 150 cm. in width at maturity.
6. *Pieris* 'Katsura' is an evergreen shrub.
7. *Pieris* 'Katsura' is hardy to USDA Zone 6.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Pieris* cultivar 'Katsura' showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which more accurately describes the actual colors of the new variety 'Katsura'. The drawings were made in spring and fall of 2001 of two and one half year old

Petal appearance.—Dull and slightly ribbed lengthwise with tips of petals reflexed.
Petal texture.—Glabrous.
Petal arrangement.—Rotate.
Number of petals.—Five in number.
Fused or unfused.—Fused with the exception of the reflexed tips.
Petal shape.—Ovate.
Petal apex.—Obtuse.
Petal dimensions.—8.5 mm. in length and 5 mm. in width.
Petal color (upper and lower surfaces when opening).—A combination of 155C and 186B.
Petal color on upper surface (when fully opened).—A combination of 155C and 186D.
Petal color on under surface (when fully opened).—A combination of 155C and 186C.
Petaloids.—Absent.
Sepal appearance.—Dull and glabrous.
Sepal arrangement.—Rotate.
Number of sepals.—Five in number.
Sepal shape.—Ovate.
Sepal margin.—Entire.
Sepal apex.—Acute.
Sepal base.—Broad cuneate.
Sepal dimensions.—3.5 mm. in length and 1.5 mm. in width.
Sepal color (immature under side).—185A.
Sepal color (immature upper side).—183C.
Sepal color (mature upper side).—181A.
Sepal color (mature under side).—181A.
Calyx shape.—Rotate.
Calyx dimensions.—1 mm. in length and 7 mm. in diameter.
Pedicels.—Present.
Pedicel dimensions.—8 mm. in length and 0.75 mm in diameter.
Pedicel angle.—10° to 50°.

Pedicel strength.—Moderate.
Pedicel color.—181A.
Reproductive organs:
Stamen number.—Ten.
Stamens.—One on a pedicel.
Anther dimensions.—1 mm. in height and 1 mm. in length.
Anther color.—175B.
Anther shape.—Broadly oval and dorsifixed.
Anther dimensions.—0.50 mm. in width and 0.50 mm. in length.
Amount of pollen.—Low.
Pollen color.—N167C.
Pistil.—One.
Pistil length.—6 mm. in length.
Ovary color.—137D.
Style color.—154C.
Style length.—6 mm. in length.
Stigma shape.—Narrow and club-shaped.
Stigma color.—187A.

Fruit:
Number of days to ripening of fruit.—Average of 40 days.
Fruit texture.—Glabrous and dull.
Fruit color.—199C.
Fruit dimensions.—Average dimensions are 6 mm. in diameter and 5 mm. in length.
Quantity of fruit per plant.—An average of 200.
Quantity of fruit per branch.—An average of 10.
Seed color.—199B.
Seed dimensions.—Less than 0.1 mm. in length and less than 0.1 mm. in diameter.
Quantity of seeds.—Approximately 250 seeds.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant named ‘Katsura’ as described and illustrated.

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