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(54) **HYDRANGEA MACROPHYLLA PLANT NAMED 'RIPPLE'**

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **Ripple**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Ripple is a new variety of *Hydrangea* plant. This new variety
has white flowers with red margins.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Genus/species: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of *Hydrangea macrophylla* plant named 'Ripple'.

The genus *Hydrangea* is included in the family Saxi-
fragaceae which comprises about 80 genera and 1,200
species of herbs, shrubs, small trees, and woody climbers
mostly temperate in origin. *Hydrangea* comprises approxi-
mately 23 species of deciduous or evergreen shrubs and
vines originating in North America, South America and East
Asia, many of which possess desirable ornamental charac-
teristics. Recent taxonomical treatments sometimes isolate
Hydrangea in a new family, Hydrangeaceae.

Hydrangea macrophylla is widespread and common
throughout much of Japan. It generally has opposite, simple
leaves, obovate to elliptic in shape, 10 to 20 cm long and 5
to 15 cm wide. Leaf color ranges from light to dark green,
depending on light intensity and cultural conditions. Leaves
are generally softly pubescent. Flower color is dependent
upon the pH level of the soil and the amount of available
aluminum in the soil media. Flowers of *Hydrangea macro-*
phylla are borne in mostly sterile florets, formed in what is
often called a "hortensia" flower.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety exhibits white to chartreuse florets with
red margins throughout the growing season. The new plant
was bred in Kanuma-City, Japan. The female parent is
Hydrangea macrophylla 'Love You Kiss' and the male
parent is *Hydrangea macrophylla* "Mirai." Asexual repro-
duction of the new variety by stem cuttings in both Kanuma-
City, Japan and in Huissen, The Netherlands has confirmed
that the distinctive characteristics of the new variety are
stable and transmitted to succeeding generations and the
new variety reproduces true to type.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE
ILLUSTRATIONS**

The accompanying illustrations show specimens of the
new cultivar in photographic illustrations as true to color as
is reasonably possible to make in photographs of this
character.

2

FIG. 1 is a close-up view of the inflorescence; and
FIG. 2 is a view of a typical flowering plant of 'Ripple'.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW
PLANT**

The following observations and descriptions are of 14–16
month old plants grown in 14 cm containers in Kanuma-
City, Japan and of 15 month old plants grown in 14 cm
containers in Huissen, The Netherlands. The plants were
grown in greenhouses in both Japan and The Netherlands. In
this description, color references are to The Royal Horticul-
tural Society Colour Chart (2001) and The Japanese Horti-
cultural Society Color Chart and terminology used in the
color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color
chart.

Classification:

Family.—*Hydrangea*.

Species.—*Macrophylla*.

Common name.—*Hydrangea*.

Parentage.—Male parent — *Hydrangea macrophylla*
'Mirai' Female parent — *Hydrangea macrophylla*
'Love You Kiss'.

Plant:

Propagation.—Plants of this variety are grown from
cuttings taken from motherplants in February, March
or early April. Growth retarders are used during the
culture.

Height.—At the end of the first growing season, about
October of that same year, the plants have a height of
10–15 cm above the soil/container and 5–8 branches.
The diameter of the plants is about 15–20 cm when
the leaves are still on the plant.

Time to flowering.—These plants can be forced into
flower in heated greenhouses and need until March
before they flower. When grown in unheated green-
houses they will need until May or early June to
flower. At that time the height above the soil/
container is approximately 30–35 cm and the diam-
eter is 40–50 cm. Also at that time the plant has 4–7
flower heads and branches have a diameter of 6–7
mm.

Branch length.—When the plant is about 35 cm tall, the
branch length is 15–20 cm.

Branching:

Habit.—Medium.*Fasciation.*—None.*Twisting.*—None.*Thickness.*—Medium.*Internode length.*—Observed 4–8 cm.*Flowering branch color.*—RHS 137A to 138A.*Spot.*—1–2 mm long; 40–65 spots per internode; 4–5 internodes per branch; 160–325 spots per branch.*Color of branch spot.*—RHS 59A and 187B.*Color.*—Branch color of previous year; darker parts are RHS 166A and 200B; lighter parts are RHS 177C and 174A.*Phyllotaxis.*—Opposite.

Leaves:

Shape.—Elliptical.*Apex.*—Acute.*Base.*—Obtuse.*Margin.*—Serrate.*Size.*—Medium.*Length.*—13–16 cm.*Width.*—6–7 cm.*Thickness.*—Medium.*Premature leaf color.*—Upper surface — RHS 137A. Lower surface — RHS 147B and 148A. On the border of the leaves (lower surface) there is a shine of color RHS 61A over it.*Mature leaf color.*—Upper surface — RHS 135A and 139A. Lower surface — RHS 137C, 138A and 147B.*Variation.*—None.*Autumn tints of leaf.*—Absent.*Gloss of leaf color.*—None.*Gloss of leaf underside.*—None.*Hair on leaf surface.*—None.*Hair on leaf underside.*—None.*Petiole thickness.*—0.6 cm.*Petiole length.*—1.6 cm.*Petiole color.*—Upper surface RHS 146B, lower surface RHS 138B and 139C.*Petiole hair.*—None.

Inflorescence:

Type.—Compound corymb.*Shape.*—Spheroidal.

Flowers:

Form.—Hortensias.*Direction.*—Upward.*Node number of stem to flowering.*—5.*Longitudinal length of inflorescence.*—19 cm.*Horizontal length of inflorescence.*—18 cm.*Thickness of inflorescence.*—9 cm.*Height of inflorescence.*—10 cm.*Number of fertile flowers.*—10–20 per inflorescence.*Number of sterile flowers.*—110–120 per inflorescence.*Diameter of fertile flower.*—0.4 cm.*Color of fertile flower.*—RHS 58A, RHS 57A, RHS 57B and RHS 46B.*Fertile flower.*—Single.*Sterile flower.*—Normal Flat.*Number of inflorescences per plant.*—12–18 per plant per year.*Flower longevity.*—12–14 weeks calculated from 6 weeks for the white/red phase and 6–8 weeks for the green phase.

Sepal:

Sepal.—Overlap.*Size difference in sepal.*—A little.*Length of sterile flowers.*—5.5–6.0 cm.*Sterile flower color.*—Multicolor.*Multicolored pattern of sterile flowers.*—Margin colored.*Color of sterile flowers at the beginning of flowering.*—JHS 3305 (green).*Color of sterile flowers in full bloom.*—JHS 3101 (white).*Sepal color.*—Center of sepal of flower in full bloom on both upper and lower surfaces is RHS 155D; rim of upper surface is RHS 60C, 61B and 63A; rim of lower surface is RHS 63A, 63B, 61C, 60D and 59D.*Secondary color of sterile flowers.*—JHS 9506 (crimson).*Sepal shape.*—Base: Attenuate; apex: obtuse; margins are between serrate and crenate.*Position of sepal incision.*—Middle part.*Density of sepal incision.*—Low.*Type of sepal incision.*—Obtuse.*Number of sepals.*—4–5.*Sepal length.*—3 cm.*Sepal width.*—3 cm.

Peduncle:

Peduncle length.—6 cm.*Peduncle diameter.*—3–4.5 mm.*Peduncle color.*—JHS 3305 (light green).*Peduncle number.*—5.

Pedicel:

Pedicel length.—3 cm.*Pedicel diameter.*—1.5 mm.*Pedicel color.*—JHS 2901 (yellowish-white).

Reproductive organs:

Stamen number.—8–12.*Pistil number.*—3–5 pistils per flower.*Filament color.*—RHS 155D under greenhouse conditions.*Anther color.*—RHS 155D under greenhouse conditions.*Fruit shape.*—Round.*Fruit color.*—Brown.*Fragrance.*—Absent.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new variety have been observed to be significantly more susceptible to *Botrytis* than the average *Hydrangea macrophylla*. No susceptibility or resistance to other diseases or pests beyond that of the species has been noted.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant as shown and described herein.

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FIG 1



FIG 2