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

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(54) **×HEUCHERELLA PLANT NAMED  
'BIRTHDAY CAKE'**

(50) Latin Name: **×Heucherella sp.**  
Varietal Denomination: **Birthday Cake**

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OR (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 127 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./263**

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

PP12,159 P2 \* 10/2001 Heims ..... Plt./263  
PP13,701 P2 \* 4/2003 Heims ..... Plt./263

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

<http://www.terranovanurseries.com/pages/plantsH6.html>.\*

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of ×*Heucherella* plant charac-  
terized by its mounding habit, chocolate colored, cut and  
ruffled leaves, and creamy flowers in candle-like spikes.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: ×*Heucherella* sp.  
Variety denomination: 'Birthday Cake'.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct inter-  
generic hybrid between *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*, or  
×*Heucherella*, and given the cultivar name 'Birthday Cake'.  
Both genera, *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*, are of the family  
Saxifragaceae.

This new cultivar originated as a single plant from cross-  
ing a group of selected *Heuchera* hybrids with massed  
pollen from a group of selected *Tiarella* hybrids. The spe-  
cific parent plants are unknown.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

This new ×*Heucherella* is characterized by:

1. Small, chocolate colored, ruffled and deeply cut leaves.
2. Creamy white flowers on brown peduncles, rising  
above the foliage like birthday candles.
3. Mounding habit.
4. Excellent vigor.

The new variety has been reproduced only by asexual  
propagation (division and tissue culture). Each of the prog-  
eny exhibits identical characteristics to the original plant.  
Asexual propagation by division and tissue culture using  
standard micropropagation techniques with terminal and  
lateral shoots as done in Canby, Oreg., shows that the  
foregoing characteristics and distinctions come true to form  
and are established and transmitted through succeeding  
propagations. The present invention has not been evaluated  
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype  
may vary with variations in environment without a change  
in the genotype of the plant.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

The photograph shows a two year old plant of the new  
variety growing in the trial field in Canby, Oreg.

**DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION**

The following is a detailed description of the new  
×*Heucherella* hybrid based on observations of two-year-old  
specimens grown in the field in the ground in full sun under  
typical outdoor conditions in Canby, Oreg. Canby is Zone 8  
on the USDA Hardiness map. Temperatures range from a  
high of 95 degrees F. in August to 32 degrees F. in January.  
Normal rainfall in Canby is 42.8 inches per year. The color  
descriptions are all based on The Royal Horticultural Soci-  
ety Colour Chart.

Botanical name: ×*Heucherella*.

Cultivar name: 'Birthday Cake'.

Plant:

*Type*.—Herbaceous perennial.

*Form*.—Basal rosette.

*Hardiness*.—USDA Zone 5.

*Size*.—17 cm tall from the ground to the top of the  
foliage and 40 cm wide.

*Vigor*.—Excellent.

*Roots*.—Fibrous, freely branching, fine, and white in  
color. Roots develop easily from cuttings.

Leaf:

*Type*.—Simple.

*Arrangement*.—Rosette.

*Shape*.—Broadly ovate.

*Lobing/division*.—3 to 5 lobed parted, with terminal cut  
almost to the petiole, with each lobe also lobed two  
to three times.

*Venation*.—Palmate.

*Margins*.—Deeply crenate and ruffled.

*Apex*.—Acute.

*Base*.—Cordate and sometimes overlapping.

*Blade size.*—Ranges from 6 cm to 7 cm long and 5.5 cm to 6 cm wide.

*Surface texture.*—Soft with glandular hairs.

*Petiole size.*—Ranges from 10 to 11 cm long and 2 mm wide.

*Petiole surface.*—Glandular hairs.

*Petiole color.*—Greyed Orange 176A.

*Leaf color.*—Topside: Brown, closest to Brown 200B and darkening at main veins to Brown 200A. Bottom side: Burgundy, closest to Greyed Purple 187A, but lighter.

Inflorescence:

*Type.*—Thyrse.

*Number of thyrse in first flush in spring.*—25 to 40.

*Number of flowers.*—Ranges from 50 to 70 per thyrse, on top 8 cm of peduncle.

*Peduncle.*—Unbranched with 1 to 2 small leaves. Height — 35 cm. Diameter — 0.25 cm. Color — Burgundy to brown, Greyed Purple 183B to Greyed Orange 165A. Surface texture — Glandular hairs.

*Pedice.*—Length — up to 0.4 cm. Surface texture — Glandular hairs. Color — Greyed Purple 187B.

*Bloom period.*—May to June in Canby, Oreg.

Flower bud:

*Size.*—0.2 cm deep and 0.2 cm wide.

*Description.*—Oblong, downfacing, glandular pubescent.

*Color.*—Tan, Greyed Orange 165C.

Flower:

*Type.*—Complete, sepals petaloid.

*Shape.*—Rotate.

*Flower size.*—0.4 cm wide and 0.4 cm deep.

*Petals.*—5, inconspicuous, Yellow White 158A on inner and outer surfaces, spatulate in shape, size is 1.5 mm long and 0.7 mm wide, margins are entire, apex is acute.

*Calyx.*—Petaloid, rotate in shape, 4 mm wide and 2 mm deep divided  $\frac{1}{2}$  way to the base, with glandular hairs, sepal lobes are ovate with an acute apex, margins entire, cream-colored, Yellow White 158A on both surfaces, slightly duller on back surface.

*Stamen.*—5 in number, sterile, filaments of Yellow White 158A are 3 mm deep terminated with oval, flattened anthers, 0.1 mm wide and 0.15 mm deep, no pollen produced.

*Pistil.*—15 mm long and 2.5 mm wide, Yellow White 158A overall, ovoid and two-lobed, each lobe is 1 mm long terminated in a narrow stigma.

*Fragrance.*—None.

*Lastingness.*—A thyrse blooms for about 2 weeks on the plant.

Fruit and seed: None. The plant does not form fruit or seed.

*Fertility.*—Sterile.

Disease and pest tolerance: Excellent disease resistance to *Heuchera* rust and powdery mildew.  $\times$ *Heucherella* are susceptible to root weevils.

#### COMPARISONS TO SIMILAR $\times$ HEUCHERELLA

Compared to *Heucherella* ‘Burnished Bronze’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,159), this new cultivar has smaller, lighter, more divided and ruffled leaves as well as cream rather than pink to white flowers.

Compared to  $\times$ *Heucherella* ‘Chocolate Lace’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,701), the new cultivar has more vigor, a rounder, more mounding habit, ruffled leaves instead of unruffled, and cream rather than white flowers.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of  $\times$ *Heucherella* plant as herein illustrated and described.

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