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Booman

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(54) **BEGONIA PLANT NAMED ‘CHARLOTTE CHIFFON’**

(50) Latin Name: *Begonia rex hybrid*
Varietal Denomination: **Charlotte Chiffon**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./343**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia* plant named ‘Char-
lotte Chiffon’ characterized by its upright and outwardly
spreading plant habit; vigorous growth habit; silvery green-
colored leaves with purple-colored centers; and dark purple-
colored leaf petioles.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Begonia rex hybrid*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Charlotte Chiffon’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Begonia*, botanically known as *Begonia rex hybrid*,
commercially known as *Rex Begonia*, and hereinafter
referred to by the cultivar name ‘Charlotte Chiffon’.

The new *Rex Begonia* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Vista, Calif. The
objective of the breeding program is to create new compact
vigorous *Rex Begonia* plants with attractive foliage colora-
tion.

The new *Rex Begonia* originated from a chance cross-
pollination in February, 2001 of two unknown selections of
Rex Begonia. The new *Rex Begonia* was discovered and
selected as a single plant from within the resulting progeny
of the chance cross-pollination in Vista, Calif. in April, 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Begonia* by leaf cuttings
in a controlled environment in Vista, Calif. since November,
2002, has shown that the unique features of this new
Begonia are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Begonia* has not been observed under all pos-
sible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, daylength and light intensity without, however,
any variance in genotype.

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

1. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Does not become dormant during the winter.

2

4. Silvery green-colored leaves with purple-colored cen-
ters.

5. Dark purple-colored leaf petioles.

Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* can be compared to plants
of the *Rex Begonia* cultivar Beau Rouge, not patented. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Vista, Calif., plants
of the new *Rex Begonia* differed from plants of the cultivar
Beau Rouge in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* had smaller leaves than
plants of the cultivar Beau Rouge.
2. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* and the cultivar Beau
Rouge differed in leaf coloration.
3. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* did not become dormant
during the winter whereas plants of the cultivar Beau
Rouge became dormant during the winter.

Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* can be compared to plants
of the *Rex Begonia* cultivar Mini Merry Christmas, not
patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Vista,
Calif., plants of the new *Rex Begonia* differed from plants of
the cultivar Mini Merry Christmas in the following charac-
teristics:

1. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* were larger than plants
of the cultivar Mini Merry Christmas.
2. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* had larger leaves than
plants of the cultivar Mini Merry Christmas.
3. Leaves of plants of the new *Rex Begonia* were not as
undulating as leaves of plants of the cultivar Mini
Merry Christmas.
4. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* had thicker petioles than
plants of the cultivar Mini Merry Christmas.
5. Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* and the cultivar Mini
Merry Christmas differed in petiole coloration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical

description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Rex Begonia*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of typical leaves of 'Charlotte Chiffon'.

The photograph at that bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Charlotte Chiffon' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse in Vista, Calif., during the fall and winter under conditions which approximate commercial production practices. After the cuttings were rooted, plants were planted in 15-cm containers and grown for about four months with day temperatures ranging from 18 to 35° C., night temperatures ranging from 15 to 21° C., and light levels about 900 to 1,800 foot-candles. In the following 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: *Begonia rex* hybrid cultivar Charlotte Chiffon.

Parentage: Chance cross-pollination of two unknown selections of *Begonia rex* hybrid.

Propagation:

Type.—By leaf cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer and winter.—About four weeks at 21° C.

Time to develop roots, summer.—About seven weeks at 21° C.

Time to develop roots, winter.—About eight weeks at 21° C.

Root description.—Fine; whitish in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Rosette; dwarf; full and dense; uniform; upright and outwardly spreading potted plant; freely basal branching with good leaf petiole strength.

Growth habit.—Rapid growth rate; vigorous.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching with about nine lateral branches per plant.

Plant height.—About 18 cm.

Plant width.—About 28 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 5 cm.

Diameter: About 1 cm. Internode length: About 5 mm.

Strength: Strong. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: 59A.

Foliage description.—Length: About 13 cm. Width:

About 10 cm. Shape: Asymmetrically cordate. Apex:

Acute. Base: Asymmetrically cordate to oblique.

Margin: Erode; fimbriate. Texture, upper surface:

Leathery, rugose; smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower

surface: Leathery, rugose; sparsely pubescence on

veins. Venation: Palmate; reticulate. Color: Develop-

ing leaves, upper surface: Towards the margins,

190B, and along the veins, 147A; towards the base,

190B overlain with 187D. Developing leaves, lower

surface: Towards the margins, 195A; towards the

base and at margins, 187C to 187D. Fully expanded

leaves, upper surface: Towards the margins, 190A,

and along the veins, 147A; towards the base, 190A

overlain with iridescent 186A; venation, 190A. Fully

expanded leaves, lower surface: Towards the

margins, 195A; towards the base, along veins and at

margins, 187A to 187B; venation, 187A. Petiole:

Length: About 9 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape:

Longitudinally channeled. Texture, upper and lower

surfaces: Coarse scattered hairs. Color, upper and

lower surfaces: 185A. Stipules: Length: About 1.5

cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Deltoid. Color,

upper and lower surfaces: 185A.

Flower description: Flower development has not been observed.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Rex Begonia* tolerate temperatures ranging from 0 to 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Begonia* plant named 'Charlotte Chiffon' as illustrated and described.

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