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Crowther

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(54) **YUCCA PLANT NAMED 'WALBRISTAR'**

(50) Latin Name: *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia*
Varietal Denomination: **WALBRISTAR**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./373**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./373**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Yucca* plant named 'WALBRISTAR'
whose leaves are characterized by broader and deeper yel-
low margins than all other existing varieties of *Yucca* known
to the inventor.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus: *Yucca*.

Species: *gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia*.

Denomination: WALBRISTAR.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of Spanish dagger grown for use as an ornamental for
container or the landscape. The new cultivar is known
botanically as *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia* and will be
referred to hereinafter by the cultivar name 'WALBRIS-
TAR'.

The species of *Yucca* known as *Yucca gloriosa* is native to
the sand dunes of the south eastern United States. *Yucca*
gloriosa carries rigid upright leaves with a smooth under-
side. During the 1920s, many hybrids of *Yucca gloriosa*
were introduced to cultivation, either as hybrids within the
species, or as hybrids with other species of *Yucca* including
Yucca aloifolia, *Yucca filamentosa* or *Yucca flaccida*. Of
these hybrids, some selections have continued to be classi-
fied as *Yucca gloriosa* whilst others which exhibit flexible
and recurving foliage have been classified as *Yucca recur-*
vifolia. In addition, the leaves of plants described as *Yucca*
recurvifolia are generally observed to have a rough under-
side. Because 'WALBRISTAR' originated in a crop of plants
which have been known and described as variegated *Yucca*
gloriosa, but because the leaves of 'WALBRISTAR' tend to
recurve and have a rough underside, then the inventor
considers that the most representative designation of the
species is *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia*. However, it
appears to be industry practice to condense this designation
to *Yucca recurvifolia*.

Each year, the inventor propagates *Yucca* by removing the
side shoots, commonly known as "pups", from the base of
the stems of the parent plants of variegated *Yucca gloriosa*
(unpatented). In 2000, in the course of this propagation, the
inventor observed one side shoot whose rosette of foliage
was atypical of the parent. Approximately one half side of
this atypical rosette exhibited a greater degree of golden
variegation. The inventor removed this one side shoot with
the intention of attempting to produce a new plant form
whose entire rosette would exhibit a uniformly more golden
variegation. The inventor rooted the first-discovered side
shoot and removed its growing point in order to encourage

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rapid basal side shoot production. In 2001, the inventor
observed that three side shoots had arisen with varying
degrees of golden variegation. The inventor observed that
one of these three side shoots exhibited a uniform and
significant degree of golden variegation. This one side shoot,
'WALBRISTAR', was removed and transferred to the inven-
tor's tissue culture laboratory where it was successfully
initiated into culture and then multiplied by the same method
of removing basal shoot cuttings, but in vitro.

'WALBRISTAR' was first asexually propagated from
basal shoot cuttings in vitro which were deflasked during
2002 and rooted in ordinary peat-based growing medium.
The inventor observed the resulting crop of plants and
determined that the original characteristics of 'WALBRIS-
TAR' had been reproduced identically, and that 'WALBRIS-
TAR' is stable and reproduces true to type.

When compared with other varieties of *Yucca gloriosa* or
Yucca recurvifolia known to the inventor, and also in com-
parison with its parent, 'WALBRISTAR' exhibits a much
broader and deeper colored yellow margin. 'WALBRIS-
TAR' also exhibits a more lax habit than its parent and is also
slower growing than its parent.

'WALBRISTAR' has produced no flowers to date.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new *Yucca*
variety named 'WALBRISTAR'. In combination these traits
set 'WALBRISTAR' apart from all other varieties of *Yucca*
known to the inventor. 'WALBRISTAR' 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. 'WALBRISTAR' exhibits upright and recurving leaves.
2. The leaves of 'WALBRISTAR' exhibit broad, deep
yellow margins.
3. The undersides of the leaves of 'WALBRISTAR' are
slightly rough.
4. 'WALBRISTAR' is slow growing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying color drawing FIG. 1 illustrates the overall appearance of 'WALBRISTAR' showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawing may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the new variety 'WALBRISTAR'.

The plant in FIG. 1 is approximately 2 years old and has been grown out-of-doors in a 2 gallon container in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia* plant named 'WALBRISTAR'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from a 27-month-old plant growing out-of-doors in a 5-liter commercial container. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2001 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to other *Yucca*.

Botanical classification: *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia* 'WALBRISTAR'.

Genus: *Yucca*.

Species: *gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia*.

Denomination: 'WALBRISTAR'.

Common name: Spanish dagger.

Commercial classification: Ornamental shrub.

Plant use: Container or landscape plant.

Cultural requirements: Cultural requirements are well draining loam soil, full sun and minimal water.

Root system: Fine and fibrous.

Plant vigor: Moderate vigor.

Plant growth rate: Slow growing.

Parentage: Spontaneous basal branch sport from an unnamed selection of variegated *Yucca gloriosa* (unpatented).

Plant description:

Bloom period.—'WALBRISTAR' has produced no flowers to date.

Plant habit.—Tight rosette habit when young. Older foliage tends to recurve.

Plant height.—Plant is 50 cm. in height in a 5-liter commercial container.

Plant width.—Plant is 94 cm. in width in a 5-liter commercial container.

Plant hardiness.—Plant is hardy to USDA Zone 7.

Propagation.—Propagation is accomplished by taking shoot cuttings in tissue culture.

Time to develop roots.—2 months is needed to develop roots by the method of tissue culture.

Crop time.—From 9 to 12 months is needed to produce a 1-liter commercial container plant.

Disease susceptibility and resistance.—Like other *Yuccas* under nursery conditions 'WALBRISTAR' can suffer from leaf spot diseases for example *Cercospora concentrica* or *Coniothyrium concentricum*. No further disease susceptibility of 'WALBRISTAR' is known to the inventor.

Special growing considerations.—Requires careful placement away from walkways and foot traffic; and will tolerate poor sandy soil.

Stem:

Stem type.—Caudex.

Stem shape.—Cylindrical in shape.

Stem color.—Individual colors 191A and 11B are present on an individual stem.

Stem diameter on a plant in a 5 liter container.—9 cm in diameter.

Stem height.—14 cm in height.

Stem surface.—Bases of imbricate leaves comprise the caudex stem surface.

Foliage:

Foliage type.—Evergreen.

Quantity of leaves.—Leaves on a 5-liter commercial container plant range from 80 to 100 in number.

Leaf shape.—Lanceolate in shape, with slightly involute edges that become pronounced at the apex.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf arrangement.—Spirally arranged.

Leaf apex.—Sharp apex.

Shape of apical spine.—Triangular in shape.

Color of apical spine.—182A.

Length of apical spine.—6 mm. in length.

Leaf base.—Truncate base.

Venation pattern.—Inconspicuous parallel vein pattern.

Vein color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).—Veins are inconspicuous and closest to 191B in color.

Leaf margins.—Entire.

Leaf attachment.—Sheathing.

Leaf surface (adaxial).—Smooth.

Leaf surface (abaxial).—Muriculate.

Leaf pubescence.—None observed.

Leaf width.—4.75 cm.

Leaf length.—48 cm.

Leaf color.—Juvenile or upright leaves (adaxial and abaxial surfaces): 139B and 139C with broad edges 13A each extending along the entire leaf length and extending inwards from the margin to approximately one fifth of the leaf width. Mature recurving leaves (adaxial and abaxial surfaces): 193B with broad edges 11C each extending along the entire leaf length and extending inwards from the margin to approximately one fifth of the leaf width.

Leaf fragrance.—No fragrance observed.

Flowers: No flowers have been produced to date.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Yucca* plant named 'WALBRISTAR' as described and illustrated herein.

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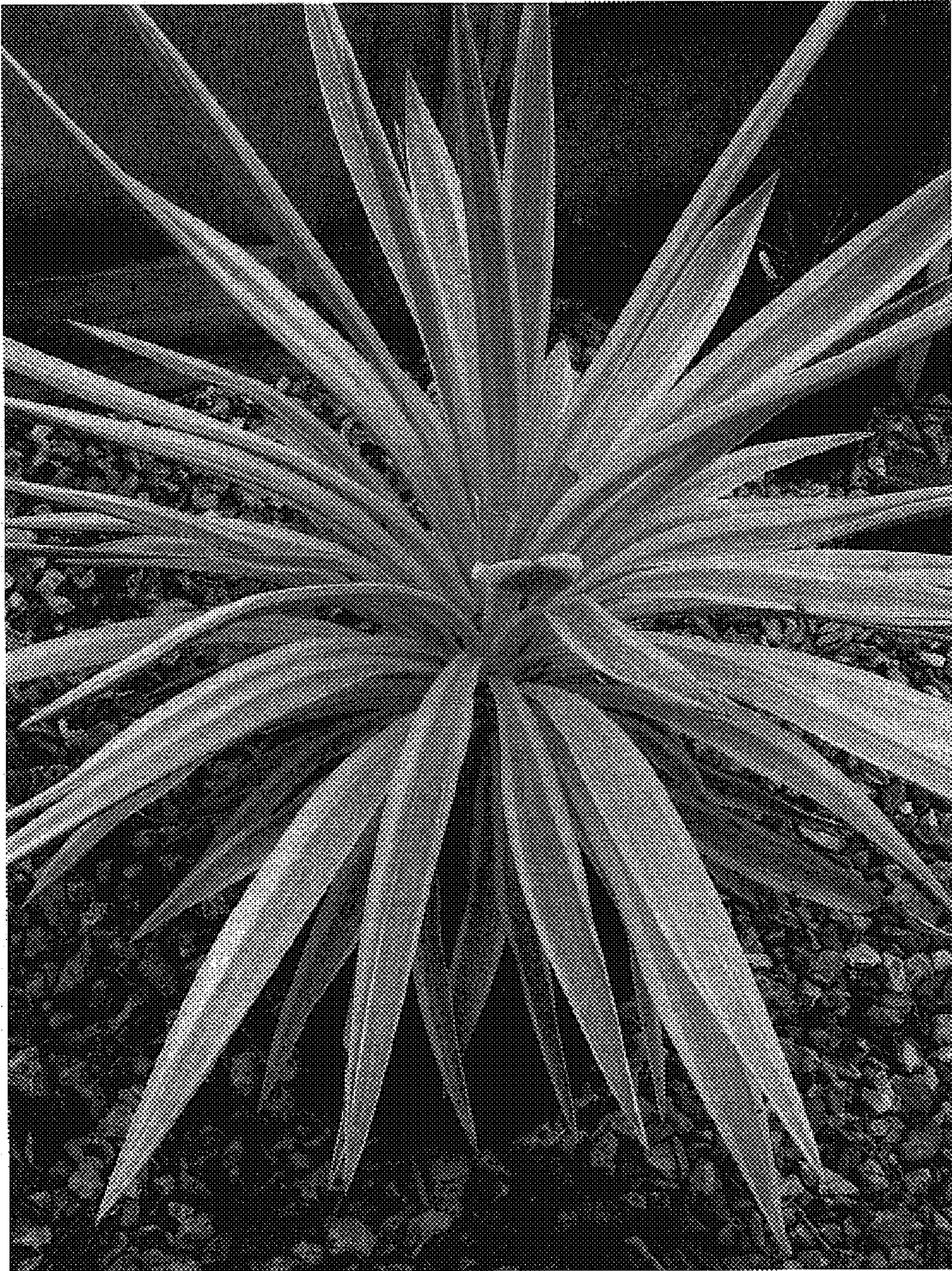


FIG. 1