

US00PP19010P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,010 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 8, 2008**

(54) **SAXIFRAGA PLANT NAMED ‘ROCKWHITE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Saxifraga*×*arendsii*
Varietal Denomination: **Rockwhite**

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(NL)

(*) 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.: **11/800,695**

(22) Filed: **May 7, 2007**

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁸ **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Search** Plt./226, 407

Primary Examiner—Annette H Para

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new *Saxifraga* plant, particularly distinguished by its
white flower color, early flowering and compact plant habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Saxifraga×*arendsii*.

Varietal denomination: ‘Rockwhite’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of
Saxifraga, botanically known as *Saxifraga*×*arendsii*.

The new *Saxifraga* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted in a greenhouse in Enkhuizen, Nether-
lands. The new *Saxifraga* cultivar has a compact plant, a
white flower color and an early flowering.

The new *Saxifraga* is propagated by cuttings resulting
from a single seedling. This seedling originates from a white
flowering selection in *Saxifraga*×*arendsii* ‘Purpersteppich’
(not patented), identified as number ‘D621.’ This selection
was made through three cycles of half sib selection. The
selection was done in the period April 2001 until March
2003 in Enkhuizen, The Netherlands. The seedling was
selected in March 2003 in Enkhuizen.

The present cultivar has been repeatedly asexually repro-
duced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands, since 2003.
The distinctive characteristics of this new *Saxifraga* are
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations
of asexual reproduction. It takes 23 to 29 weeks to produce a
finished plant, depending on the temperature.

The new *Saxifraga* plant is a perennial in all climatic
zones in the US.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The new *Saxifraga* plant is illustrated by the accompany-
ing photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and
foliage of the plant in full color, the color showing being as
true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photo-
graphic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinc-
tive characteristics of this new *Saxifraga*. The data which
defines these characteristics were collected from asexual
reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, The Netherlands.
The plant history was taken on plants of 30 weeks old. The
instant plant was grown in an 11 cm container in a plastic
tunnel.

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Color references are primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart
of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Plants of the new *Saxifraga* differ primarily from the
plants of the originator ‘Purpersteppich’ in the following
characteristics:

Plants of the new variety have uniform white flowers and a
compact growth habit, whereas plants of ‘Purpersteppich’
have red, rose and white flowers and a loose growth habit.

TABLE 1

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEW CULTIVAR ‘ROCKWHITE’
AND A SIMILAR CULTIVAR

	‘Rockwhite’	‘Findling white’ (not patented)
Flower stem length	6-13 cm	4-8 cm
Petal shape	Orbicular	Oval
Time of flowering	23-29 weeks after cutting	26-32 weeks after cutting

The plant:

Classification.—Botanical: *Saxifraga*×*arendsii*.

Parentage:

Originator selection.—‘Purpersteppich’ (not patented).

Propagation:

Type of cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—12–14 days at 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—5 weeks.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous and white in color.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Makes mats of rosetts. Each
rosette develops several short branches, and one or
more branched flower stems.

Growth and branching habit.—Freely branching habit,
freely flowering, vigorous.

Plant height.—14 cm.

Plant spread.—15 cm.

Lateral branches:

Length.—3–5 cm.

Diameter.—1.2 mm.

Texture.—Smooth; pubescent with long hairs: 2–4 mm.

Internode length.—2–5 mm.

Color.—145C.

The foliage:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Shape of blade.—Three-lobed.

Length, mature leaves.—0.6–0.8 cm.

Width, mature leaves.—0.5–0.7 cm.
Apex.—Acute.
Base.—Acute.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Smooth, slightly pubescent.
Venation pattern.—Palmate.
Color of upper surface.—144A.
Color of lower surface.—144B.
Venation, upper surface.—145B.
Venation, lower surface.—144A.

The petiole:

Length.—0.6–0.8 cm.
Width.—1 mm.
Color upper surface.—144C.
Color lower surface.—144B.
Texture.—Smooth; slightly pubescent.

The flower:

Inflorescence type.—Each rosette develops 1–3 branched flower stems.
Flower type.—Single, solitary; symmetry: radial symmetric.
Number of branches per flower stem.—2–5.
Number of flowers and flower buds per flower stem.—2–15.
Length flower stem.—6–13 cm.
Flower position.—At top of branch.
Fragrance.—Absent.
Flowering season.—Spring.
Flower diameter.—1.2–2.2 cm.
Lastingness of the bloom.—40–50 days.
Lastingness of an individual flower.—3–6 days.

Flower buds:

Bud length (at stage of showing color).—3 mm.
Bud diameter.—3 mm.
Bud shape.—Orbicular.
Texture.—Smooth; pubescent, hairs have a purple tip (N79B).
Color, just before opening.—144B, with 63A on apex.

Petals:

Quantity.—5 per flower, imbricate.
Shape.—Orbicular.
Apex.—Rounded to acuminate.
Base.—Shortly attenuate.
Length.—7–10 mm.
Width.—5–8 mm.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Smooth.

Color upper and lower surface.—Lighter than 155C; 63A on apex and round central vein.
Venation pattern.—Bowed.
Venation upper and lower surface.—150A.

Sepals:

Quantity.—5 per flower.
Shape.—Ovate.
Apex.—Acute.
Margin.—Entire.
Length.—3–4 mm.
Width.—2.5–3.5 mm.
Color upper surface.—144A, with some 63A on apex.
Color lower surface.—144A.
Texture upper surface.—Smooth; slightly pubescent, hairs have a purple tip (N79B).
Texture lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Peduncles:

Length.—0.5–2.5 cm.
Diameter.—1 mm.
Color.—144A.
Texture.—Smooth; pubescent, hairs have a purple tip (N79B).

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—
Stamen number.—10, not fused.
Filament length.—3–5 mm.
Filament shape.—Threadlike.
Filament color.—154B.
Anther shape.—Bi-lobed.
Anther length.—1.5 mm.
Anther color.—164B.
Color of pollen.—2A.
Amount of pollen.—Normal.
Gynoecium.—
Pistil number.—2.
Pistil length.—3–4 mm.
Stigma color.—155A.
Style color.—154C.
Ovary color.—151B.

Seed development: Seed development has not been observed to date.

Disease/pest resistance: No disease/pest resistance has been observed to date.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Saxifraga* plant named 'Rockwhite,' as substantially illustrated and described herein.

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : PP 19,010 P2
APPLICATION NO. : 11/800695
DATED : July 8, 2008
INVENTOR(S) : Gutter

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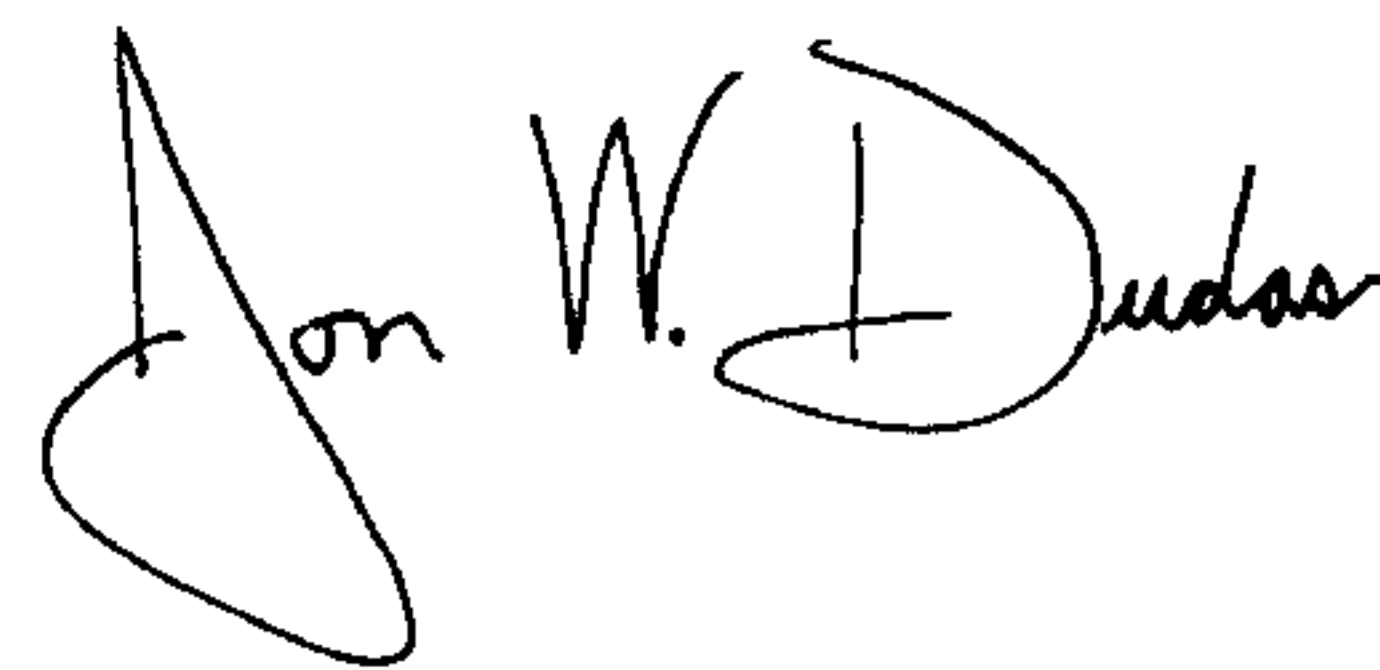
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

At column 1, line 11, insert --habit-- following “a compact plant”

At column 2, line 31, delete “rosetts” and insert therefor --rosettes--

Signed and Sealed this

Second Day of September, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Dudas". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "Dudas".

JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office