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Rendle

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(54) **CORDYLINE PLANT NAMED ‘SOUTHERN
SPLENDOUR’**

(50) Latin Name: *Cordyline australis*
Varietal Denomination: **Southern Splendour**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./383
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Cordyline* plant named
‘Southern Splendour’, characterized by its upright and out-
wardly arching growth habit; slender stems with short inter-
nodes; long arching linear leaves with pink and brown-
colored longitudinal stripes; and good keeping quality and
garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Cordyline australis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Southern Splendour’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Cordyline* plant, botanically known as *Cordyline*
australis, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Southern
Splendour’.

The new *Cordyline* is a naturally-occurring whole plant
mutation of the *Cordyline australis* cultivar Red Star, not
patented. The new *Cordyline* was discovered and selected by
the Inventor within a population of plants of the parent selec-
tion in a controlled environment in Newmarket, Auckland,
New Zealand in 1996.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Cordyline* by micro-
propagated cuttings in Newmarket, Auckland, New Zealand
since 1997, has shown that the unique features of this new
Cordyline are stable and reproduced true to type in succes-
sive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Southern Splendour has not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature and light intensity, without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

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

1. Upright and outwardly arching growth habit.
2. Slender stems with short internodes.
3. Long arching linear leaves with pink and brown-
colored longitudinal stripes.
4. Good keeping quality and garden performance.

Plants of the new *Cordyline* differ from plants of the
parent, the cultivar Red Star, primarily in foliage color as

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plants of the cultivar Red Star have dark burgundy red-
colored leaves.

Plants of the new *Cordyline* can be compared to plants of
the *Cordyline australis* cultivar Torbay Dazzler, not pat-
ented. Plants of the new *Cordyline* differ primarily from
plants of the cultivar Torbay Dazzler in foliage color as
plants of the cultivar Torbay Dazzler have green and creamy
white-colored leaves.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Cordyline*. This photographs show
the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in
colored reproductions 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 *Cordyline*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical two-year old plant of ‘Southern
Splendour’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up
view of the upper surface of a typical leaf of ‘Southern
Splendour’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition,
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-
cance are used. The aforementioned photographs and fol-
lowing observations and measurements describe plants
grown in Las Pallas, Murcia, Spain during the spring and
early summer in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse and
under conditions and practices which approximate those
generally used in commercial *Cordyline* production. During
the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from
25° C. to 30° C. and night temperatures ranged from 16° C.
to 22° C. Plants were about two years old when the photo-
graphs and the botanical description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Cordyline australis* cultivar Southern Splendour.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Cordyline australis* cultivar Red Star, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By micropropagated cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About two weeks at 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About 56 to 60 days at 22° C.

Root description.—Medium thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately branching; sparse.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Upright and outwardly arching plant habit; broadly inverted triangle with arching leaves. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 100 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 50 cm.

Stem description:

Diameter, at base.—About 2.5 cm; slender.

Internode length.—About 1 cm.

Color.—Close to 187A.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous.

Foliage description:

Orientation.—Initially erect to outwardly arching.

Arrangement.—Whorled; sessile.

Shape.—Linear.

Apex.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Leathery; smooth, glabrous.

Luster, upper surface.—Glossy.

Luster, lower surface.—Dull.

Venation pattern.—Parallel.

Length.—About 60 cm to 70 cm.

Width.—About 1.5 cm to 3 cm.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Alternating longitudinal stripes of 54A and between 199A and 200A. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Alternating longitudinal stripes of 54A and between 199A and 200A. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Similar to lamina.

Flower description: Plants of the new *Cordyline* do not typically develop flowers.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Cordyline* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Cordyline*.

Keeping quality: Plants of the new *Cordyline* are durable and will maintain good leaf substance indefinitely under interior conditions.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Cordyline* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about -5° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Cordyline* plant named 'Southern Splendour' as illustrated and described.

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