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

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(54) **PIERIS PLANT NAMED 'PASSION'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Pieris japonica***
Varietal Denomination: **Passion**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

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

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./226**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV-ROM search for PBR 20052636 for cultivar Passion
p. 1.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant named 'Passion',
characterized by its upright and outwardly spreading plant
habit; freely branching habit; large inflorescences with
numerous red purple-colored flowers; developing inflores-
cences upright; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Pieris japonica*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Passion'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Pieris*, botanically known as *Pieris japonica*, and herein-
after referred to by the name 'Passion'.

The new *Pieris* is a product of a planned breeding pro-
gram conducted by the Inventor in Boskoop, The Nether-
lands. The objective of the breeding program is to create new
Pieris varieties having upright inflorescences and attractive
flower color.

The new *Pieris* originated from a cross-pollination made
by the Inventor in March, 1988, in Boskoop, The
Netherlands, of an unnamed seedling selection of *Pieris*
japonica, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with
the *Pieris japonica* cultivar Valley Valentine, not patented, as
the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Pieris* was discovered
and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the
progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled envi-
ronment in Boskoop, The Netherlands in March 1999.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Pieris* by cuttings taken
in a controlled environment in Boskoop, The Netherlands
since 2000 has shown that the unique features of this new
Pieris are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Pieris* has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary some-
what with variations in environment such as temperature
and/or light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype. The following traits have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics
of 'Passion'. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish 'Passion' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris*:

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1. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Large inflorescences with numerous red purple-colored
flowers.
4. Developing inflorescences upright.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Pieris* differ from plants of the female
parent selection primarily in flower color as plants of the
female parent selection have white-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Pieris* differ from plants of the male
parent, the cultivar Valley Valentine, in the following charac-
teristics:

1. Plants of the new *Pieris* develop roots more easily than
plants of the cultivar Valley Valentine.
2. Plants of the new *Pieris* are more freely branching than
plants of the cultivar Valley Valentine.
3. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Pieris* are more
upright than inflorescences of plants of the cultivar Val-
ley Valentine.

Plants of the new *Pieris* can be compared to the plants of
the *Pieris* cultivar Rosalinda, not patented. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Boskoop, The Netherlands, plants
of the new *Pieris* differed from plants of the cultivar Rosal-
inda in the following characteristics:

1. Developing leaves of plants of the new *Pieris* were light
green in color whereas developing leaves of plants of
the cultivar Rosalinda were brownish red in color.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Pieris* were red purple in
color whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar Rosal-
inda were light pink in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Passion' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical leaf of 'Passion'.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a close-up view of typical flowering stems of 'Passion'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Boskoop, The Netherlands in 17-cm containers, in a glass-covered greenhouse during the winter and under commercial production conditions. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 7° C. to 16° C. and night temperatures ranged from 2° C. to 10° C. Plants used for the photographs and description were about four years old. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Pieris japonica* 'Passion'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed seedling selection of *Pieris japonica*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Pieris japonica* cultivar Valley Valentine, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About ten weeks at temperatures of 18° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderate branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial, evergreen; upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; broad inverted triangle. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit; about six lateral branches develop per plant.

Plant height, soil level to top of flowers.—About 31 cm.

Plant diameter, area of spread.—About 21.2 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 10.1 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 3 mm to 7 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 143A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate or whorled at terminals; simple. Length: About 5 cm. Width: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Crenate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing foliage, upper and lower surfaces: 144A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Between 137A and 147A; venation, 143C. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Between 143A and 144A; venation, 144B. Petiole: Length: About 9 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and appearance.—Single urceolate flowers arranged on terminal panicle racemes. Developing inflorescences initially upright

then bending with the weight of developing flowers. Freely flowering habit; about 135 flowers develop per inflorescence during the flowering period.

Natural flowering season.—Plants of the new *Pieris* typically flower in March in The Netherlands. Flowers not persistent.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about two weeks on the plant.

Fragrance.—Sweet, pleasant.

Inflorescence length.—About 7.5 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 10.4 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 7 mm.

Flower depth.—About 7 cm.

Flower bud.—Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 187C; towards the apex, 187A.

Petals.—Arrangement: Single urceolate flower form; single whorl of five petals fused at the base. Length: About 7 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Roughly ovate with obtuse apex. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: 185C; towards the base, 155A. When opening, lower surface: 59B; towards the base, 155C. Fully opened, upper surface: 185C to 185D; towards the base, 155A. Fully opened, lower surface: 60B; color becoming closer to 60C to 60D with development; towards the base, 155C.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Five fused in a single whorl. Length: About 3 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Broadly cuneate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Immature, upper and lower surfaces: 187A. Mature, lower surface: 145C to 145D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 9.1 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: Initially upright to about 80° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 200C.

Pedicels.—Length: About 4.5 mm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Angle: About 50° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 183A to 183B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: About ten. Anther shape: Roughly oval. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 200A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to N167C. Gynoecium: Quantity of pistils per flower: Typically one. Pistil length: About 5 mm. Style length: About 4.5 mm. Style color: 145D. Stigma shape: Narrowly club-shaped. Stigma diameter: Less than 1 mm. Stigma color: Close to 144B. Ovary color: 143A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Pieris* have been observed to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to rain and wind and temperatures from about -15° C. to about 33° C.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Pieris*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant named 'Passion' as illustrated and described.



