

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
van Paemel

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(54) **HELLEBORUS PLANT NAMED ‘CANDY LOVE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Helleborus ×nigercors*
Varietal Denomination: **Candy Love**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant named ‘Candy Love’, characterized by its upright and mounded plant habit; strong and moderately vigorous growth habit; numerous greenish white-colored flowers with reddish-colored margins; long flowering period; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Helleborus×nigercors*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Candy Love’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus*, botanically known as *Helleborus×nigercors*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Candy Love’.

The new *Helleborus* originated from a cross-pollination in Oostkamp, Belgium, of a proprietary selection of *Helleborus niger* designated as Wilgenbroek Selection, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Helleborus lividus*, also designated as Wilgenbroek Selection, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Helleborus* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination grown in a controlled environment in Oostkamp, Belgium in 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* by vegetative cuttings in a controlled environment in Zandevoort, The Netherlands since 2005, has shown that the unique features of this new *Helleborus* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Candy Love has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature 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 ‘Candy Love’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Candy Love’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus*:

1. Upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Strong and moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Numerous greenish white-colored flowers with reddish-colored margins.
4. Long flowering period.
5. Good garden performance.

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Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of the parent selections. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are more freely flowering than plants of the parent selections and also differ in flower color.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of the *Helleborus×nigercors* cultivar Pink Beauty, not patented. Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ primarily from plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are taller than plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty.
2. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have darker green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty.
3. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are more freely flowering than plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty.
4. Plants of the new *Helleborus* flower for a longer period of time than plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty.
5. Plants of the new *Helleborus* and the cultivar Pink Beauty differ in flower color as plants of the cultivar Pink Beauty have light pink-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Helleborus*, showing 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 *Helleborus*.

The photograph at the top of the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Candy Love’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the first sheet is a close up view of a typical leaf of ‘Candy Love’.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers of ‘Candy Love’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants

grown in Oostkamp, Belgium in containers during the winter in an outdoor nursery and under conditions which closely approximate commercial *Helleborus* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from about 4° C. to about 15° C. and night temperatures ranged from about -1° C. to about 8° C. Plants were about one year old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the 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: *Helleborus x niger cors* cultivar Candy Love.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus niger* designated as Wilgenbroek Selection, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus lividus* designated as Wilgenbroek Selection, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About three weeks at 20° C.

Time to develop roots.—About six weeks at 20° C.

Root description.—Thick, fleshy, fibrous.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial.

Upright and mounded plant habit; flattened globular.

Strong and moderately vigorous growth habit.

Leaves and flowering stems developing from the plant base. About nine leaves per basal rosette.

Plant height.—About 23.8 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 52 cm.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Palmately compound with five leaflets per leaf.

Leaf length.—About 19.2 cm.

Leaf width.—About 12.1 cm.

Terminal leaflet length.—About 14.4 cm.

Terminal leaflet width.—About 5.6 cm.

Lateral leaflet length.—About 11.4 cm.

Lateral leaflet width.—About 4.2 cm.

Leaflet shape.—Narrowly elliptic to obovate.

Leaflet apex.—Acute.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate.

Leaflet texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; leathery.

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Leaflet color.—Developing foliage, upper surface: 137B to 137C. Developing foliage, lower surface: 200B. Mature foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 144A. Mature foliage, lower surface: 191A; venation, 165A.

Petiole.—Length: About 11.6 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A tinged with 174A to 174B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and shape.—Single rotate flowers arranged on panicles; flowers nodding. Freely flow-

ering habit, about 14 flowers develop per inflorescence. Petals not observed.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Long flowering period; plants flower from December through April in Belgium.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About ten days; flowers not persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.3 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 145C to 145D flushed with 185A to 185B.

Inflorescence size.—Length: About 22.2 cm. Diameter: About 23 cm.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 8 cm. Depth (height): About 2.4 cm.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 3.8 cm. Width: About 2.9 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: 145C to 145D; with development, color becoming closer to 150D; towards the base, 144B to 144C. When opening, lower surface: Between 145C and 150D; flushed with 182C to 182D. Fully opened, upper surface: Between 150D and 155A; towards the base, 144C; with development, color becoming closer to 146B to 146C, towards the margins, 178A to 178B. Fully opened, lower surface: 150D flushed with 182C; with development, color becoming closer to 197A, towards the margins and veins, 178A.

Peduncles.—Strength: Moderately strong. Length: About 15.6 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Aspect: About 25° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B to 144C heavily overlain with 176A.

Pedicels.—Strength: Moderately strong. Length: About 4.3 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Aspect: About 30° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144C to 144D heavily overlain with 176A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 70. Filament length: About 1.7 cm. Filament color: 150D. Anther shape: Reniform. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: 4B. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 4D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: About five. Pistil length: About 1.1 cm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: 150D. Style length: About 1 cm. Style color: 144B to 144C. Ovary color: 144C to 144D. Nectaries: Arrangement: About 12 subtending the filaments. Length: About 7 mm. Diameter, at apex: About 3 mm. Diameter, at base: About 1 mm. Color: 144A.

Seeds/fruits.—Seed and fruit development has not been observed.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures from about -20° C. to about 30° C.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'Candy Love' as illustrated and described.

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