



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

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(54) **PHORMIUM PLANT NAMED ‘RUBY TUESDAY’**

(50) Latin Name: *Phormium cookianum*
Varietal Denomination: **Ruby Tuesday**

(76) Inventor: **Stephen Burton**, 1896 Hamilton Road,
Cambridge (NZ)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./373,
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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Kent L. Bell

Assistant Examiner—June Hwu

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Phormium* plant named ‘Ruby Tuesday’
that is characterized by a semi-upright habit and red/
burgundy leaves that retain their color as the plant ages.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Phormium cookianum*.
Variety denomination: ‘Ruby Tuesday’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Phormium* plant botanically known as *Phormium cooki-*
anum and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Ruby
Tuesday’.

The new cultivar originated from seeds collected and
grown from the female or seed parent plant *Phormium*
cookianum ‘Purpurea’ (not patented). The male or pollen
parent plant is unknown. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ was selected as a
single plant by the inventor in a cultivated area of
Cambridge, New Zealand in 2001.

Asexual reproduction by division of the new cultivar
‘Ruby Tuesday’ was first performed in 2001 in Cambridge,
New Zealand. Since that time, under careful observation, the
unique characteristics of the new cultivar have been uniform,
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations
of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics
of the new *Phormium* cultivar ‘Ruby Tuesday’.

1. *Phormium* ‘Ruby Tuesday’ exhibits a semi-upright
habit.

2. *Phormium* ‘Ruby Tuesday’ exhibits red/burgundy
leaves that retain their color as the plant ages.

The new cultivar ‘Ruby Tuesday’ is distinguishable from
the female parent plant by the following characteristics:

1. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has red/burgundy colored leaves. The
leaves of ‘Purpurea’ are browner.

2. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has a shorter overall height.

The closest comparison cultivars as *Phormium* ‘Purple
Haze’ (not patented) and *Phormium* ‘Dark Delight’ (not
patented).

The new cultivar ‘Ruby Tuesday’ is distinguishable from
‘Purple Haze’ by the following characteristics:

1. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has a more erect habit.

2. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has red/burgundy colored leaves. The
leaves of ‘Purple Haze’ are grey-brown.

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The new cultivar ‘Ruby Tuesday’ is distinguishable from
‘Dark Delight’ by the following characteristics:

1. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has wider leaves.

2. ‘Ruby Tuesday’ has red/burgundy colored leaves. The
leaves of ‘Dark Delight’ are more purple.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photograph illustrates the distinguish-
ing traits of *Phormium* ‘Ruby Tuesday’. The plant in the
photograph shows an overall view of a 1 year old plant. The
photograph was taken using conventional techniques and
although colors may appear different from actual colors due
to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by conven-
tional photographic techniques.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Phor-*
mium cultivar named ‘Ruby Tuesday’. Data was collected in
Cambridge, New Zealand from 1 year old field grown plants.
The time of year was Winter in the Southern Hemisphere
and the temperature range was 0 to 20 degrees Centigrade
during the day and –4 to 12 degrees Centigrade at night. No
photoperiodic treatments or growth retardants were used.
Color determinations are in accordance with The Royal Hor-
ticultural Society Colour Chart 2001 edition, except where
general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are
used. The growing requirements are similar to the species.
‘Ruby Tuesday’ has not been tested under all possible condi-
tions and phenotypic differences may be observed with
variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural
conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

Botanical classification: *Phormium cookianum* ‘Ruby Tues-
day’.

Use: Ornamental perennial shrub.

Vigor: High.

Growth rate: Medium.

Growth habit: Compact with many pups.

Plant shape: Rounded, semi-erect.

Suitable container size: 3.3 L.

Height: Average 1.3 m in height.

Width: Average 1.0 m in width.

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Low temperature tolerance: -5 Centigrade.
High temperature tolerance: 30 Centigrade.
Propagation: Division.
Crop time: 48 weeks to produce a finished plant from division.
Root system: Fine and fibrous.
Lateral Branches:
 Quantity.—Approximately 10 to 15.
Foliage:
 Texture.—Coriaceous.
 Leaf arrangement.—Alternatively branched distichous fans.
 Compound or single.—Single.
 Leaf shape.—Lanceolate.
 Leaf apex.—Acute.
 Leaf base.—Attenuate.
 Leaf length.—Average 1.3 m in length.

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Leaf width.—Average 65 mm in width.
Pubescence.—Absent.
Leaf margin.—Entire.
Young leaf color (upper surface).—N77A.
Young leaf color (lower surface).—N187A.
Mature leaf color (upper surface).—N187A.
Mature leaf color (lower surface).—200A.
Vein color (upper surface).—1C.
Vein color (lower surface).—26A.
Durability of foliage to stress.—Moderate to high.

Flowers: Flowers have not been observed.

Disease and Insect Resistance: Plants of the new *Phormium* have not been observed for disease or insect resistance.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Phormium* plant named ‘Ruby Tuesday’ as described and illustrated.

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