

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Van Zanten

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED ‘ATN VM7’**

(50) Latin Name: *Euphorbia pulcherrima*
Varietal Denomination: **ATN VM7**

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(US)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 41 days.

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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./1**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./303
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP16,945 P2 * 8/2006 Zerr Plt./306
PP17,522 P2 * 3/2007 Anatriello Plt./307

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Wendy C. Haas

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct Poinsettia plant cultivar is disclosed,
characterized by medium-sized, creamy white bracts with a
rose pink center, blooming consistently after 7.5 weeks of
night-length of 13.5 hours or more, with a post-production
longevity of 6 weeks or more.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species: *Euphorbia pulcher-*
rima.

Variety denomination: ‘ATN VM7’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new cultivar ‘ATN VM7’ is a product of a planned
breeding program. The new variety was discovered as a
whole plant induced mutation from the original cultivar,
‘ATN VR2’. The original cuttings were treated in February
2004 with gamma rays at 25 Gy. The new cultivar was dis-
covered and selected by Leo van Zanten in November 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘ATN VM7’ by
terminal cuttings was performed in Oxnard, Calif., USA and
has shown that the unique features of this new cultivar are
stable and reproduced true to type on successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar ‘ATN VM7’ has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, daylength, and light intensity, without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be basic characteristics of ‘ATN VM7’
which in combination distinguish this Poinsettia as a new
and distinct cultivar:

1. Creamy white bracts with a rose pink center;
2. Medium sized bracts in tight and flat rosette-like
arrangement;
3. Dark-green foliage with moderate lobes;
4. Bracts are medium-sized, v-shaped with the branches
slanting upright;
5. Beginning of flowering after 7.5 weeks of night-length
of 13.5 hours or more and;
6. Post production longevity of 6 weeks or more.

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In comparison to the parent variety, ‘ATN VR2’ (which is
the subject of Plant Pat. No. 17,522), ‘ATN VM7’ is taller
and has a wider plant spread. Also, the parent variety ‘ATN
VR2’ has more leaves per lateral branch but ‘ATN VM7’ has
larger, darker leaves. Additionally, the new variety ‘ATN
VM7’ has a larger inflorescence diameter with fewer bracts
per inflorescence. Finally, the new variety ‘ATN VM7’ has
bicolor white and pink bracts compared to the red bracts of
the parent variety.

In comparison to the commercially available variety
‘Fisholly’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,945), ‘ATN VM7’ has a
shorter flowering response time and longer post-production
longevity. The new variety ‘ATN VM7’ is taller but has a
smaller plant spread than ‘Fisholly’. Additionally, the new
cultivar ‘ATN VM7’ has darker green foliage. Finally, the
bracts of ‘ATN VM7’ are more red-purple in the center and a
creamier yellow than the comparable variety.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates in full color a
typical plant of ‘ATN VM7’ grown in a 6.5-inch pot. One
cutting was used in the pot, planted in late August and grown
in a greenhouse using approximately 4,000-foot candles of
light. The colors are as nearly true as is reasonably possible
in a color representation of this type.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where
general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.
The following observations and measurements describe
‘ATN VM7’ plants grown in Oxnard, Ventura County, Calif.,
from late August to late November of 2006. The growing
temperature ranged from 18° C. to 20° C. at night to 20° C.
to 24° C. during the day.

Botanical classification: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* cultivar 'ATN VM7.'

Commercial classification: Poinsettia.

PROPAGATION

Time to initiate rooting: Approximately 10 days at 20–22° C.

Time to develop roots: Sufficiently rooted for transplanting after about 25 days in a greenhouse at temperature of 20–22° C.

PLANT

Form: Mounding inverted triangle self-branching, mounded top of plant.

Growth habit: Moderately compact structure, pinched plants are bushy with the branches upright directed at an angle of roughly 35 degrees, foliage canopy uniformly rounded.

Height: In 6.5 inch pot, approximately 35 cm.

Plant spread: In 6.5 inch pot, approximately 38 cm.

Growth rate: Low to medium vigor.

Branching characteristics: Free-branching.

Diameter of branches: Approximately 0.7 cm.

Average number of branches: Approximately 7 after pinching.

Length of lateral branches: Approximately 24 cm.

Number of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 9.

Stem color: Near Green 143C.

Age of plant described: Approximately 120 days.

FOLIAGE

Leaf:

Arrangement.—Alternate single.

Average length.—Approximately 11 cm.

Average width.—Approximately 8 cm.

Shape of blade.—Ovate.

Lobes.—Moderate lobes.

Tip.—Acuminate.

Base.—Rounded to almost truncate.

Attachment.—Stalked.

Margin.—Entire, apart from the lobes.

Aspect.—Slightly recurved.

Texture of top surface.—Glabrous.

Texture of bottom surface.—Glabrous.

Leaf internode length.—About 2.5 cm.

Color.—Young foliage upper side: Near Yellow-Green

146A. Young foliage under side: Near Yellow-Green

146B. Mature foliage upper side: Near Yellow-Green

147A. Mature foliage under side: Near Yellow-Green

147A.

Venation.—Type: Pinnate. Venation color upper side:

Near Yellow-Green 145A. Venation color under side:

Near Yellow-Green 145B.

Petiole:

Average length.—Approximately 4.5 cm.

Color.—Near Yellow-Green 145B.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.3 cm.

Texture.—Smooth.

Aspect.—Petioles are horizontally directed.

FLOWER

Inflorescence:

Inflorescence description.—Inflorescences are compound corymbs of cyathia with colored flower bracts subtending the cyathia.

Blooming habit.—Begin under natural short day conditions in the fall: Botanically (cyathia open) in late

December. Commercially (bracts colored, marketable in late November).

Flowering response time.—60 days after beginning of short days (nights longer than 13.5 hours.)

Flowering description.—Whole inflorescence with surrounding bracts. About medium-size, star-shaped, with the bracts directed in a tight arrangement and overlapping.

Natural flowering season.—Mainly from late November to late December.

Number of inflorescences per lateral branch.—Approximately 1.

Diameter of inflorescence.—Approximately 13 cm.

Height of inflorescence.—Approximately 7.1 cm.

Number of bracts per inflorescence.—About 12.

Persistence.—Persistent.

Bracts:

Length of largest bracts.—About 12 cm.

Width of largest bracts.—About 8 cm.

Keeping quality.—Plants have a post-production longevity of 6 weeks.

Shape.—Ovate, with moderate lobes.

Base.—Obtuse, moderate lobes with acute tips.

Terminal tip.—Acuminate.

Texture:

Upper surface.—Glabrous, velvety.

Lower surface.—Glabrous velvety.

Aspect.—Slightly recurved.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color:

Developing bracts.—Upper surface: Near Yellow 9D with near Red-Purple 66D at center. Lower surface: Near Red-Purple 64B with near Yellow 9D at margins.

Mature bracts.—Upper surface: Near Yellow 9D with near Red-Purple 63C at center. Lower surface: Near Yellow 9D with near Red-Purple 63D at center.

Bract petiole:

Length.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.2 cm.

Color.—Near Greyed-Yellow 160C with near Red-Purple 63C on the under surface of the petiole.

Cyathium: About 12 per corymb.

Diameter of cyathia cluster: About 3.1 cm.

Length of individual cyathia: Approximately 0.9 cm.

Width of individual cyathia: Approximately 0.7 cm.

Shape: Ovoid.

Color:

Immature.—Near Yellow 9B.

Mature.—Near Yellow 9B.

Aging: Near Yellow 9A.

Nectar cups/nectaries:

Quantity.—One or two per cyathium.

Width.—Up to 5 mm wide.

Color.—Near Yellow 9A.

Peduncle:

Length.—About 0.2 cm.

Diameter.—About 0.1 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright.

Texture.—Glabrous.

Color.—Near Yellow-Green 145B.

Reproductive organs:
 Stamen.—Approximately 15 in a cluster.
 Anther shape.—Bi-lobed.
 Anther length.—About 0.1 cm.
 Anther color.—Near Red-Purple 63C.
 Quantity of pollen.—Moderate.
 Pollen color.—No pollen detected.
Pistils: None observed.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Disease resistance: No resistance nor susceptibility has been observed to pests and diseases of poinsettia crops.
Fruit/seed production: No seed observed.
What is claimed is:
 1. A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named ‘ATN VM7’ as herein illustrated and described.

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