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Dümmen

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(54) **BEGONIA PLANT NAMED ‘BBBON WIT’**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(50) Latin Name: *Begonia*×*hiemalis*
Varietal Denomination: **BBBON WIT**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./345**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./345**
See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia* plant named
‘BBBON WIT’, characterized by its compact, upright and
mounded plant habit; freely branching habit; numerous
double flowers that are white in color and held above the
foliage; and good postproduction longevity.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/074,612**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 5, 2008**

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Begonia*×*hiemalis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘BBBON WIT’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Begonia* plant, botanically known as *Begonia*×*hiemalis*,
commercially known as *Elatior Begonia*, and hereinafter
referred to by the name ‘BBBON WIT’.

The new *Begonia* is a naturally-occurring whole plant
mutation of the *Begonia*×*hiemalis* cultivar BBBON, dis-
closed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,587. The new *Begonia* was
discovered and selected by the Inventor from within a popu-
lation of plants of the cultivar BBBON in a controlled envi-
ronment in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands during the summer
of 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Begonia* by cuttings in a
controlled environment in a greenhouse in Rijsenhout, the
Netherlands since the summer of 2005, has shown that the
unique features of this new *Begonia* are stable and repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar BBBON WIT 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 the unique characteristics of ‘BBBON
WIT’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘BBBON WIT’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia*:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Numerous double flowers that are white in color and
held above the foliage.
4. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Begonia* differ primarily from plants of
the parent, the cultivar BBBON, in flower form and flower

color as plants of the cultivar BBBON have fewer tepals per
flower and have dark pink-colored tepals.

Plants of the new *Begonia* can also be compared to plants
of the cultivar Netja Dark, not patented. In side-by-side com-
parisons conducted in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands, plants
of the new *Begonia* differed from plants of the cultivar Netja
Dark in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Begonia* had more tepals per flower
than plants of the cultivar Netja Dark.
2. Margins of inner tepals of plants of the new *Begonia*
were somewhat serrate whereas margins of inner tepals
of plants of the cultivar Netja Dark were entire.
3. Plants of the new *Begonia* and the cultivar Netja Dark
differed in flower color as plants of the cultivar Netja
Dark had dark reddish pink-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new *Begonia*, showing the colors
as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Begonia. The photograph comprises a side perspective view
of a typical flowering plant of ‘BBBON WIT’ grown in a
container.

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. Plants used for the aforementioned photo-
graph and following observations and measurements were
grown in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands in 13-cm containers
and under commercial practice in a glass-covered green-
house during the spring and summer. During the production
of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 15° C.
to 20° C. and light levels were about 18,000 lux. Plants used
for the photograph and the description were about three
months from planting.

Botanical classification: *Begonia* × *hiemalis* cultivar BBBON WIT.

Commercial classification: Elatior *Begonia*.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Begonia* × *hiemalis* cultivar BBBON, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,587.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About two weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three to five weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; plants of the new *Begonia* have not been observed to form tubers.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Compact, upright and mounded plant habit, inverted triangle; freely branching with good stem and stem base strength. Flowers are double and abundant. Moderate growth rate.

Plant height.—About 20 cm.

Plant width.—About 20 cm to 25 cm.

Basal branch description.—Quantity: Freely basal branching with about five to six basal branches developing per plant. Length: About 9 cm to 13 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm to 3 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144C.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Simple, alternate. Length: About 8 cm to 9 cm. Width: About 5 cm to 6 cm. Shape: Roughly deltoid. Apex: Acute. Base: Cordate to oblique. Margin: Serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Venation pattern: Palmate. Color: Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 139A; venation, 139B. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 136A; venation, 139B. Petiole length: About 4 cm to 6 cm. Petiole diameter: About 4 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: 136B.

Flower description:

Flowering habit.—Double flowers with numerous tepals arranged in axillary cymes. Usually six to seven open flowers per cyme. Many cymes in flower simultaneously. Flowers positioned upright and outwardly above the foliage. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Plants will flower continuously year round in the greenhouse, however plants flower earlier and more abundantly during the summer in The Netherlands. Good postproduction longevity, flowers last about four weeks on the plant. Flowers persistent.

Cyme height.—About 5 cm to 7 cm.

Cyme diameter.—About 6 cm to 7 cm.

Flowers.—Shape: Oval; rose-like. Diameter: About 4 cm to 5 cm. Depth (height): About 1 cm.

Flower buds.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: About 1 cm to 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 cm. Color: Close to 157B.

Tepals.—Arrangement: Rosette. Quantity per flower: Usually about 10 to 15 per flower. Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Width: About 3 cm to 4 cm. Shape: Obovate to rounded. Apex: Rounded, obtuse. Margin: Entire to somewhat serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 157D. When opening, lower surface: 157B. Fully opened, upper surface: 155B. Fully opened, lower surface: 155D.

Flower bracts.—Quantity/arrangement: Two, opposite. Shape: Broadly ovate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B.

Peduncles.—Angle: Erect to about 30° to 45° from vertical. Length: About 4 cm to 5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B.

Pedicels.—Angle: About 30° to 45° from the peduncle. Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 3 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 146D.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: None observed. Pistils: None observed.

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

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Begonia* has not been observed.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Begonia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 10° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Begonia* plant named 'BBBON WIT' as illustrated and described.

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