



US00PP19802P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,802 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 10, 2009**

(54) **VARIETY OF *HYDRANGEA* PLANT NAMED**
'HORSONN'

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **Horsonn**

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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.

(22) Filed: **Oct. 29, 2007**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./250**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./250**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant having light pink flow-
ers and a strong root system.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/978,509**

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Hydrangea macrophylla* hybrid.
Varietal denomination. 'HORSONN'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct culti-
var of *Hydrangea* plant known by the varietal name
'Horsonn'. The new variety was discovered in 2001 in a
breeding program in Dresden, Germany. The purpose of the
breeding program was to develop *Hydrangeas* having light
pink flowers. The new variety is the result of a cross between
'Königstein' (female parent, unpatented) and breeding selec-
tion no. 30-89/3 (male parent, unpatented). The inflores-
cence colour and foliage of the new variety are similar to its
female parent, but 'Horsonn' exhibits a different vigour and
inflorescence diameter. 'Horsonn' is a mophead like 'K
önigstein', but their stem quality and root system differ.
'Horsonn' has a similar inflorescence diameter to its male
parent, but differs in inflorescence colour and growth habit.
The new variety was first asexually reproduced in 2001 via
propagation by cuttings in Germany. The new variety has
been trial and field tested in Germany and has been found to
retain its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type
through successive propagations.

The following traits distinguish 'Horsonn' as a new and
distinct cultivar from other *Hydrangea* varieties known to
the breeder:

1. Inflorescence size;
2. Stem quality;
3. Vigour;
4. Strong root system; and
5. Branching habit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photographic drawing illustrates the
new variety, with the color being as nearly true as is possible
with color illustrations of this type:

FIG. 1 is photograph of an entire plant of the new variety.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth characteris-
tics of the new cultivar. The plants were grown in 13 cm. pots
in peat substrate at a pH of 6.0 and were 10 months past
propagation when described. Measurements and color read-
ings of the plants were taken in Dresden, Germany under
natural light with a shadow present. Color references are
primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of the Royal Horticul-
tural Society of London.

PLANT

Time to initiate roots: About 15 days at 18° C.
Time to develop roots: About 20 days at 18° C.
Rooting habit: Very strong and adventitious root system.
Time to produce a finished flowering plant from a rooted
cutting: About 41 weeks in a 13 cm. container.
Form: Symmetrical.
Height (from media surface to top of foliage): 20.0 cm.
Height (from media surface to top of flowers): 30.0 cm.
Plant diameter: 45.0 cm.
Vigor: Strong.
Strength: No artificial support needed.
Branching habit: Well-branched.
Trunk:
Main trunk length.—2.0 cm.
Diameter.—1.2 cm.
Color.—199A.
Texture.—Woody.
Pubescence.—Absent.
Internode length.—2.0 cm.
Lateral branches:
Length.—Young: 13.0 cm. Mature: 6.0 cm.
Diameter.—Young: 0.7 cm. Mature: 0.9 cm.
Internode length.—3.5 cm.
Texture.—Smooth with dark lenticels.
Pubescence.—Absent.
Color.—Young: 143C. Mature: 199B.
Lenticel color.—177A.
Foliage:
Arrangement.—Opposite disposition.
Size of leaf.—Length: 11.0 cm. Width: 8.0 cm.

Shape of leaf (generally).—Young: Ovate. Mature: Ovate.

Shape of apex.—Cuspidate.

Shape of base.—Obtuse.

Texture.—Matte.

Aspect.—Slightly undulate.

Margin type.—Serrate.

Pubescence.—None present.

Color.—Young leaves: Upper surface: 137A. Lower surface: 138A. Mature leaves: Upper surface: 139A. Lower surface: 138A.

Petiole.—Shape: U-shaped. Length: 2.5 cm. Diameter: 0.3 cm. Color: 138B.

Veins.—Venation type: Pinnate. Color: Upper surface: 138B. Lower surface: 138C.

FLOWER

Natural flowering season: July in Dresden, Germany.

Flower habit: Early blooming after 10 weeks of forcing.

Bud:

Stage of development when described.—At full colouration.

Shape of cluster.—Round.

Diameter of cluster.—8.0 cm.

Number of buds per cluster.—7 fertile, 19 sterile.

Shape.—Fertile: Round. Sterile: Round.

Length.—Fertile: 0.2 cm. Sterile: 0.1 cm.

Width.—Fertile: 0.3 cm. Sterile: 0.2 cm.

Inflorescence:

Shape.—Mophead.

Length.—10.0 cm.

Diameter.—17.0 cm.

Average number of flowers per inflorescence.—120.

Average number of inflorescences per plant.—8–10.

Lastingness.—Fertile: Three weeks. Sterile: Four weeks.

Petals:

Number per flower.—3 to 5.

Color.—Upper surface: 65D. Lower surface: 65D.

Shape.—Round.

Length.—0.2 cm.

Width.—0.1 cm.

Apex.—Pointy.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture.—Smooth.

Tonality from a distance.—Mixed colour.

Sepals:

Number per flower.—4 to 5.

Color.—139D.

Shape.—Ovate.

Length.—0.1 cm.

Width.—0.1 cm.

Apex.—Pointy.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture.—Smooth.

Fused.—Yes.

Petaloids:

Quantity.—3 to 5.

Shape.—Ovate.

Color.—Upper surface: 65A. Lower surface: 65B.

Pedicels: Fertile: 0.4 cm. Sterile: 2.6 cm.

Diameter.—Fertile: 0.1 cm. Sterile: 0.25 cm.

Color.—65C.

Peduncles:

Length.—4.5 cm.

Diameter.—0.3 cm.

Texture.—Smooth with dark lenticels.

Color.—137D, 178A lenticels.

Stamens:

Number per fertile flower.—7 to 9.

Filament.—Length: 0.2 cm. Color: 65D.

Anthers.—Shape: Round to elongated. Length: 0.1 cm.

Color: 1D.

Pollen.—Color: 1D. Amount: Plentiful.

Pistils:

Number.—1 divided into 3 parts.

Length.—0.1 cm.

Style.—Length: 0.1 cm. Color: 65D.

Stigma (divided into 3 parts).—Color: 65D. Diameter: 0.15 cm.

Ovaries (inferior).—Length: 0.3 cm. Width: 0.2 cm. Color: 1D.

Fragrance: Fresh and “green”.

Disease resistance: Tolerant to botrytis and powdery mildew. Temperature tolerance: Medium, not fully winterhardy flower buds in Germany.

Drought tolerance: Medium.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Hydrangea* plant substantially as shown and described herein.

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Fig. 1