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

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(54) *HYDRANGEA* PLANT NAMED ‘ROBERT’

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

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

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

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(US)

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **Plt./250**  
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 *Hydrangea* plant named  
‘Robert’, characterized by its upright and mounded plant  
habit; strong roots and stems; strong and dark green-colored  
leaves; and large mophead-type inflorescences with dark  
pink-colored flowers.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/075,449**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 11, 2008**

**1 Drawing Sheet**

**1**

**2**

Botanical designation: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘Robert’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Hydrangea*, botanically known as *Hydrangea macro-*  
*phylla* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Robert’.

The new *Hydrangea* is a product of a planned breeding  
program conducted by the Inventor in Grand Haven, Mich.  
The objective of the breeding program was to develop new  
*Hydrangeas* with attractive foliage and flower coloration.

The new *Hydrangea* originated from an open-pollination  
in July, 2003 of the *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar  
Bailmer, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,298, as the  
female, or seed parent and an unknown selection of *Hydran-*  
*gea macrophylla*. The cultivar Robert was discovered and  
selected by the Inventor in May, 2005 as a flowering plant  
within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a con-  
trolled environment in Grand Haven, Mich.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by softwood cut-  
tings in Grand Haven, Mich. since June, 2005 has shown that  
the unique features of this new *Hydrangea* plant are stable  
and reproduced true to type in successive generations of  
asexual reproduction.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The cultivar Robert has not been observed under all pos-  
sible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
somewhat with variations in environment and cultural prac-  
tices 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 ‘Robert’.  
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Robert’ as  
a new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea*:

1. Upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Strong roots and stems.
3. Strong and dark green-colored leaves.
4. Large mophead-type inflorescences with dark pink-  
colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ from plants of the  
female parent, the cultivar Bailmer, in the following charac-  
teristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have darker green-colored  
leaves than plants of the cultivar Bailmer.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea* have larger and  
thicker sepals than flowers of plants of the cultivar  
Bailmer.
3. Sepals of plants of the new *Hydrangea* are brighter pink  
in color than sepals of plants of the cultivar Bailmer.
4. With development, sepals of plants of the new *Hydran-*  
*gea* turn green in color whereas with development,  
sepals of plants of the cultivar Bailmer turn brown in  
color.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of  
the cultivar Sonmarie, not patented. Plants of the new  
*Hydrangea* differ from plants of the cultivar Sonmarie in the  
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have glossier and darker  
green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Son-  
marie.
2. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* develop inflorescences on  
new and old wood whereas plants of the cultivar Son-  
marie only develop inflorescences on old wood.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
unique appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-  
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ  
from the color values cited in the detailed botanical descrip-  
tion which accurately describe the colors of the new *Hydran-*  
*gea*.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a  
side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Robert’  
grown in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view  
of a typical inflorescence of ‘Robert’.



## DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description were grown in Grand Haven, Mich. in ground beds in an outdoor nursery and under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were about three years old when the photographs and description were taken during the summer.

Botanical description: *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar Robert.

## Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—*Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar Bailmer, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,298.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Unknown selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla*, not patented.

## Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—By softwood cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots.*—About ten days at temperatures of about 24° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant.*—About 40 days at temperatures of about 24° C.

*Root description.*—Fine, fibrous.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

## Plant description:

*Form/growth habit.*—Perennial shrub. Upright and mounded plant habit; broadly inverted triangle. Strong lateral branches; vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 65 cm.

*Plant diameter or area of spread.*—About 75 cm.

*Branching habit.*—When pinched, freely branching with about seven lateral branches per plant.

*Lateral branches.*—Length: About 57 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Internode length: About 9 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong. Color: 144B with speckles, 187C.

## Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Opposite, simple.

*Length.*—About 17 cm.

*Width.*—About 10 cm.

*Shape.*—Elliptic.

*Apex.*—Acuminate.

*Base.*—Cuneate.

*Margin.*—Serrate.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Rugose; glabrous.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Color.*—Developing foliage, upper surface: 137A.

Developing foliage, lower surface: 137B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 145B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137C; venation, 145B.

*Petiole.*—Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 145B.

## Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Single sterile and fertile flowers arranged on terminal mophead-type panicles. Flowers face upright or outward. Flowers not fragrant.

*Natural flowering season.*—Continuous flowering from July to September in Grand Haven, Mich. Plants begin flowering about six to eight weeks after pinching.

*Flower longevity, fertile flowers.*—Flowers last about two weeks on the plant; flowers not persistent.

*Flower longevity, sterile flowers.*—Flowers last about four months on the plant; flowers persistent.

*Quantity of flowers.*—Freely flowering; about 53 fertile flowers and about 200 sterile flowers per panicle.

*Panicle height.*—About 11 cm.

*Panicle diameter.*—About 18 cm.

*Flower diameter, fertile flowers.*—About 4 mm.

*Flower depth (height), fertile flowers.*—About 5 mm.

*Flower diameter, sterile flowers.*—About 5 cm.

*Flower depth (height), sterile flowers.*—About 8 cm.

*Flower buds, fertile and sterile flowers.*—Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Shape: Globular. Color: 144D.

*Petals, fertile flowers only.*—Arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 74C. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 74C.

*Sepals, fertile flowers.*—Quantity per flower: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Deltoid. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 144D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: 144D.

*Sepals, sterile flowers.*—Quantity per flower: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 2.5 cm. Width: About 2.5 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 144C. Fully opened, upper surface: 66B to 66C; color becoming closer to 144B with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 66C; color becoming closer to 144C with development.

*Peduncles, fertile and sterile flowers.*—Angle: Erect to about 20° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Length: About 7.5 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A tinted with 66B.

*Pedicels, fertile flowers.*—Angle: Erect to about 10° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 66B.

*Pedicels, sterile flowers.*—Angle: About 10° to about 90° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Length: About 2 cm to 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 66B.

*Reproductive organs, fertile flowers only.*—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About five. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: About 1.5 mm. Anther color: 66C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 198C. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: About two or three. Pistil length: About 2 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-lobed. Stigma color: 66D. Style length: About 2 mm. Style color: 66D. Ovary color: 63D.

*Seeds.*—Quantity per inflorescence: Numerous. Size: Less than 0.1 mm by less than 0.1 mm. Color: Close to 200D.

*Disease/pest resistance:* Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have not been observed to be resistant to pests or pathogens common to *Hydrangea*.

*Temperature tolerance:* Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been shown to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from about -27° C. about 37° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant named 'Robert' as illustrated and described.



