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Richards

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(54) **CORDYLINE AUSTRALIS PLANT NAMED**
‘CHARLIE BOY’

(50) Latin Name: ***Cordyline australis***
Varietal Denomination: **Charlie Boy**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./383**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Cordyline* plant named ‘Char-
lie Boy’ characterized by cerise pink uniform leaf margins
on a brown background, and improved root performance
leading to a sturdier, healthier plant.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Cordyline* plant, botanically known as *Cordyline austra-*
lis, and further known by the varietal name ‘Charlie Boy.’
The new cultivar was collected from a batch of nursery seed-
lings cultivated through open pollination of various
Cordyline australis by the inventor, Graeme Charles Rich-
ards, in Lincolnshire, England. The parental cultivar is
believed to be a combination of *Cordyline australis*. The
cultivar has been asexually reproduced via tissue culture
reproduction occurring in 2003 in Lincolnshire, England.
Seedlings grown from the parental cultivar seeds were
planted out and plants with desirable ornamental character-
istics were selected. The cultivar was discovered as a natu-
rally occurring whole plant mutation in a commercial plant-
ing of the *Cordyline australis* variety, where the parent
plants have un-variegated green foliage. The new cultivar is
distinguished from other *Cordylines* by its variegated leaves
with cerise red edges on a brown background, and enhanced
disease resistance. The first plants were weaned out in pro-
duction testing in 2005 and second generations were weaned
in 2006. Continued observation of future generations
through asexual reproduction via tissue culture in Lincoln-
shire, England have confirmed that the distinguishing fea-
tures of this new cultivar remain true, stable and continuous
through successive propagation.

The closest comparator to ‘Charlie Boy’ known to appli-
cant is *Cordyline australis* ‘Red Sensation’ (unpatented)
which is an erect plant with red/brown foliage. *Cordyline*
australis ‘Charlie Boy’ has cerise pink uniform leaf margins
and a hardier constitution for cold and other environmental
conditions, different variegation and more vigorous, stron-
ger rooting habit.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar ‘Charlie Boy’ have not been
observed under all possible environmental and cultural con-
ditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary some-

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what with variations in environment such as temperature,
light intensity, length of day, irrigation amount and
frequency, and/or fertilizer rate without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

5 The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be among the unique characteristics of
‘Charlie Boy’. These characteristics distinguish ‘Charlie
Boy’ as a new and distinct cultivar from its closest compara-
tor *Cordyline australis* ‘Red Sensation’ as well as other
10 *Cordyline australis*:

1. Variegated leaves.

Compared to other plants of the *Cordyline* genus, the new
Cordyline has distinctive variegated leaves.

15 2. Cerise Red Edged Leaves On Brown Background.

Compared to other plants of the *Cordyline* genus, the new
Cordyline has distinctive cerise red edged leaves on a brown
background.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The invention is depicted in the accompanying colored
photographs in which:

FIG. 1 shows a potted plant illustrating the characteristic
foliage.

25 The photograph depicts the overall appearance of the new
Cordyline, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably
possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Col-
ors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color val-
ues cited in the Detailed Botanical Description which more
30 accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Cordyline*.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
NEW PLANT**

35 The following detailed description sets forth characteris-
tics of the new cultivar. The data which defines each charac-
teristic was collected from reproductions of the plant grown
in an open greenhouse. The plant histories of *Cordyline aus-*
tralis ‘Charlie Boy’ were taken on multiple pots containing
single plants.

In the following table of plant characteristics, color references where available are made to the Royal Horticultural Society of London Colour Chart, 1995 Edition. The age of the plant described is approximately 1½ years old with measurements taken from mature leaves.

THE PLANT

Classification:

Botanical.—*Cordyline australis*.

Varietal name.—‘Charlie Boy’.

Parentage.—Seedling mutation of *Cordyline australis*.

Asexual propagation.—Tissue culture.

Form:

Plant growth rate.—Approximately 500 mm per annum.

Growth habit.—Upright apically dominant with arching leaves.

Growth type.—Erect.

Mean plant height.—750 mm at age 1½ years.

Mean plant width.—1000 mm at age 1½ years.

Stem:

Scapes.—Basal foliage.

Mean stem diameter.—45 mm at base at 1½ years.

Stem color.—Gray brown 197C to 199A/B.

Leaves:

Leaf color.—7–10 mm cerise pink edges with brown center.

Young, upper side.—Brown 200A; axially striped grayed-brown 182A; margins red 52B.

Young, under side.—Brown 200B; axially striped grayed-brown 182A; margins red 52B.

Mature, upper side.—Brown 200B; axially striped grayed-brown 182A; margins red 51A/52B.

Mature, under side.—Brown 200B; axially striped grayed-brown 182A; margins red 52A/B.

Leaf shape.—Arching, sword-shaped leaves on outer with upright in center.

Mean leaf width.—15 mm.

Mean leaf length.—450 mm.

Leaf Characteristics.—Apex — Acute. Margin — Slight undulations. Texture — Smooth, glaucous. Shape — Sword-shaped with no petiole. Average no. of leaves — Approximately 70–80 on an 18 month old plant. Venation pattern — Parallel. Venation color. — Indistinguishable from foliage coloration.

Inflorescence: N/A (No flowers observed to date)

Other characteristics:

Temperature tolerance.—Tolerates low temperatures to at least –8° C. and high temperatures to at least 33° C.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

‘Charlie Boy’ is primarily distinguished from other cultivars of *Cordyline* genus by its variegated cerise foliage. ‘Charlie Boy’ has an upright growth habit with smooth, glaucous leaves with slight undulations on their margins.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Cordyline australis* plant named ‘Charlie Boy’ substantially as illustrated and described.

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