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Bremner

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(54) **POTENTILLA PLANT NAMED ‘SUMMER DAWN’**

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

(50) Latin Name: **Potentilla *ILLA fruticosa***
Varietal Denomination: **SUMMER DAWN**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./237**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./237**
See application file for complete search history.

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 3 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Potentilla* plant named ‘Summer Dawn’
that is characterized by compact habit even after twenty
years, dense grey-green foliage, and large primrose yellow
flowers. In combination these traits set ‘Summer Dawn’
apart from all other varieties of *Potentilla* known to the
inventor.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/932,323, filed on May 29,
2007.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Genus: *Potentilla*.
Species: *fruticosa*.
Denomination: ‘Summer Dawn’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Potentilla*, commonly known as Bush Cinquefoil, or
Shrubby *Potentilla*, which is grown as a dwarf summer-
flowering shrub for use in the garden and landscape. The
new cultivar is known botanically as *Potentilla fruticosa*, and
will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar name ‘Summer
Dawn’. ‘Summer Dawn’ arose from a breeding program car-
ried out by the inventor at the inventor’s nursery on the
Island of Orkney in Scotland, United Kingdom, which the
inventor commenced in 1976.

Shrubby *Potentillas* are especially well-adapted to the
harsh weather conditions of Orkney which experiences long,
dull and wet winters, with salt-laden winds and frequent
severe gales. Summers are short and cool, and the prevailing
soil type is heavy boulder clay. Although *potentillas* suffer
die-back in these conditions, re-growth occurs quickly and
flowering occurs and persists during the summer and early
autumn months.

Initially, the inventor gathered together approximately
sixty named cultivars of *Potentilla*, and planted them in the
open ground with the intention of facilitating open pollina-
tion. Seed was harvested each autumn and seedlings raised
the following spring. As the inventor observed the flowering
and plant habit of each new seedling, it was either discarded
or re-planted in association with similar selections in order
to encourage open pollination within each color group. The
initial aim of the breeding program was to produce robust
white-flowered forms. More recently the inventor has been
interested in producing a collection of new *Potentilla* variet-
ies with novel flower colors and improved plant habit lead-
ing to better garden and landscape performance.

‘Summer Dawn’ was identified and selected in 1985 for
its useful combination of attractive pale yellow flowers
which are large in comparison with other cultivars of similar

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color known to the inventor, a long flowering period, and a
compact habit without pruning, even after 20 years of obser-
vation in the ground.

5 The male and female parents of ‘Summer Dawn’ were
unnamed, unreleased seedlings which the inventor had
raised from previous open pollinations going back to the
inventor’s original acquisition of named cultivars.

10 The cultivar of *potentilla* which is considered to be closest
in flower color and plant habit to ‘Summer Dawn’ is the
variety ‘Primrose Beauty’ (unpatented). Whereas ‘Primrose
Beauty’ achieves a height of 1.3 meters to 1.7 meters, and a
spread of 2 meters, ‘Summer Dawn’ has remained compact,
not exceeding 1 meter in height and spread, even after 20
15 years. The diameter of the flowers of ‘Primrose Beauty’ is 25
mm, whereas the flowers of ‘Summer Dawn’ are 35 mm–50
mm in diameter.

20 ‘Summer Dawn’ was first asexually propagated by the
inventor in Orkney, Scotland, United Kingdom in summer
1985, by taking softwood cuttings. The plants resulting from
this first and from all subsequent generations have grown
and flowered uniformly and identically with the inventor’s
initial selection. The inventor has determined that the new
variety ‘Summer Dawn’ is stable and reproduces true to type
25 in successive generations of asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

30 The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new *Poten-
tilla* cultivar named ‘Summer Dawn’. These traits in combi-
nation distinguish ‘Summer Dawn’ from all other varieties
of *Potentilla* known to the inventor. The new invention has
not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic
35 differences may be observed with variations in
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however,
without any variance in genotype.

40 1. ‘Summer Dawn’ is a compact upright bush which even-
tually attains height of 1 meter and spread of 1 meter
after 20 years, without pruning.

2. After three years in a container, 'Summer Dawn' grows to 50 cm. in height and 30 cm. in width.
3. The flowers of 'Summer Dawn' are primrose yellow in color, becoming slightly darker towards the center.
4. The flowers of 'Summer Dawn' are 35 mm to 50 mm in diameter, which is large by comparison with other cultivars known to the inventor.
5. 'Summer Dawn' flowers continually through the summer.
6. 'Summer Dawn' is hardy to USDA Zone 3.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Potentilla* variety named 'Summer Dawn' showing color as true as is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. The plant depicted in the drawings is 3-years-old and growing out-of-doors in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Drawing labeled FIG. 1 depicts 'Summer Dawn' in bloom.

Drawing labeled FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flowers.

Color in drawings may differ from color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual color of the new variety 'Summer Dawn'. Drawings were made using conventional techniques and although color may appear different from actual color due to light reflectance, they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Potentilla* cultivar named 'Summer Dawn'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from 3-year-old plants growing out-of-doors. Color determinations are in accordance with The 2001 Royal Horticultural Society Colour chart except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species and no disease problems have been observed.

Botanical classification: *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Summer Dawn'.

Family: Rosaceae.

Genus: *Potentilla*.

Species: *fruticosa*.

Denomination: 'Summer Dawn'.

Common name: Cinequefoil.

Parentage: *Potentilla fruticosa* 'Summer Dawn' is a hybrid plant that resulted from open pollination of unnamed and unreleased open pollinated seedlings. The male and female parents are unknown.

Type: Deciduous shrub.

Use: For use in border and landscape.

Commercial classification: Sub-shrub.

Vigor: Low.

Root system: Fine and fibrous.

Habit: Upright.

Height: 50 cm.

Width: 30 cm.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 3.

Seasonal interest: Profuse flowering in spring and summer.

Propagation method: Stem cuttings.

Cultural conditions: Grow in full sun and well-draining soil, with moderate water.

Crop time (range): 9–12 months are needed to produce a finished 1-liter container from a rooted cutting.

Rooting time (average): 8–10 weeks are needed for an initial cutting to produce roots.

Susceptibility to pests and disease: No susceptibility to pests or disease known to the inventor.

Stem:

Branching.—Dense lateral branching.

Main trunk color.—165A.

Trunk surface.—Scurfy.

Trunk width.—4 cm.

Stem shape.—Subcylindrical.

Stem color.—Both 182A and 178A are individually present.

Stem surface.—Villous.

Stem dimensions (range).—18 cm–23 cm. in length and 2 mm. in diameter.

Internode (range).—1.50 cm–2 cm.

Foliage:

Type.—Winter deciduous.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate.

Leaf division.—Palmate.

Leaf dimensions (range).—1.25 cm–2.75 cm. in length and 1.50 cm–3 cm. in width.

Leaf color (abaxial surface).—N138D.

Leaf color (adaxial surface).—In the range N138A to N138B.

Leaf shape.—Flabellate.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Petiole shape.—Cylindrical.

Petiole color.—N138D.

Petiole surface.—Pubescent.

Petiole dimensions.—1.50 cm. in length and 1 mm. in width.

Leaf margin.—Divided.

Leaflets (range).—3–5 in number.

Leaflet dimensions (range).—1 cm–1.50 cm. in length and 0.40 cm–0.60 cm. in width.

Leaflet surface (abaxial and adaxial).—Pubescent.

Leaflet shape.—Spatulate.

Leaflet apex.—Rounded.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate.

Leaf venation.—Reticulate.

Vein color (abaxial surface).—N138D.

Vein color (adaxial surface).—N138D.

Foliar fragrance.—None observed.

Flower:

Inflorescence.—Solitary.

Flower arrangement.—Terminal.

Flower quantity (range).—50–80 on an individual plant.

Flower shape.—Saucer-shaped.

Flower dimensions.—1 cm. in depth and 35 mm–50 mm in diameter.

Aspect.—Facing upward and outward.

Self-cleaning or persistent.—Self-cleaning.

Flower color.—The following colors are all present: 1D, 1C, 3B, 3C.

Petals.—5 in number.

Petal dimensions.—2 cm. in length and 2 cm. in width.

Petals fused or unfused.—Unfused.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Petal apex.—Obtuse.

Petal base.—Truncate.

Petal shape.—Orbicular.

Petal surface (abaxial and adaxial).—Glabrous.

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Petal color (abaxial surface).—In the range 1D to 1C.
Petal color (adaxial surface).—In the range 3B to 3C.
Bud color.—3A.
Bud shape.—Obovate.
Bud surface.—Puberulent.
Bud dimensions.—4 mm. in height and 5 mm. in width.
Bud quantity (range).—50–80 on an individual plant.
Sepals.—5 in number.
Sepals fused or unfused.—Unfused.
Sepal margin.—Entire.
Sepal apex.—Apiculate.
Sepal surface (abaxial).—Villous.
Sepal surface (adaxial).—Puberulent.
Sepal color (abaxial and adaxial surfaces).—In the range 182A to 153B.
Sepal dimensions.—6 mm. in length and 5 mm. in width.
Bractlets (subtending sepals).—5 in number.
Bractlets fused or unfused.—Unfused.
Bractlet margin.—Entire.
Bractlet apex.—Apiculate.
Bractlet surface (abaxial).—Villous.
Bractlet surface (adaxial).—Puberulent.
Bractlet color (abaxial and adaxial surfaces).—137B.
Bractlet dimensions.—6 mm. in length and 5 mm. in width.
Calyx dimensions.—1 cm. in diameter.
Calyx surface (abaxial surface).—Villous.
Calyx surface (adaxial surface).—Puberulent.
Calyx shape.—Stellate.

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Calyx color.—182A, 153B, 137B are all individually present.
Peduncle shape.—Cylindrical.
Peduncle surface.—Villous.
Peduncle color.—N144C.
Peduncle dimensions.—0.75 cm. in length and <1 mm. in diameter.
Flower fragrance.—Delicate scent.
 Reproductive organs:
Stamens.—About 20.
Stamen color.—13A.
Stamen length.—2 mm.
Anther.—About 20 in number.
Anther shape.—Hastate.
Anther color.—22A.
Anther length.—Less than 1 mm.
Pollen.—Low amount.
Pollen color.—163C.
Carpel.—More than 10.
Carpel color.—163A.
Carpel length.—Less than 1 mm.
Ovary position.—Inferior.
Ovary color.—163D.
Ovary shape.—Convex.
Ovary dimensions.—1 mm. in height and 2 mm. in diameter.
 Seed: None observed to date.
 What is claimed is:
 1. A new and distinct variety of *Potentilla* plant named ‘Summer Dawn’ as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2