

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

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(54) **DIANTHUS PLANT NAMED ‘WP PASSION’**

(50) Latin Name: *Dianthus*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **WP Passion**

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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 5 days.

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./273,**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Dianthus* plant named ‘WP PASSION’ that
is characterized by pronounced compact habit, grey-green
foliage, and large deep red double flowers. In combination
these traits set ‘WP PASSION’ apart from all other existing
varieties of *Dianthus* known to the inventor.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Genus: *DIANTHUS*

Species: ×*hybrida*

Denomination: ‘WP PASSION’

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application claims the benefit of priority under 35
U.S.C. 119(f) of the earlier application for European Plant
Breeder's Rights, Application Number 2007/1881 filed Jul.
26, 2007.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Dianthus* that is grown for use as a flowering plant for pots
and containers and as a hardy perennial for the garden and
landscape. The new cultivar is known botanically as *Dian-*
thus×*hybrida* and will be referred to hereinafter by the culti-
var name ‘WP PASSION’.

‘WP PASSION’ is a complex hybrid plant that is the prod-
uct of a long term breeding program conducted in a green-
house environment in Houndspool, Dawlish, Devon, United
Kingdom. The primary focus of the breeding program is to
produce new cultivars of *Dianthus* that exhibit unique growth
habit and colors. The inventor selected ‘WP PASSION’ in
2003 for its large, dark red, double flowers, compact habit,
and grey-green foliage.

‘WP PASSION’ resulted from the controlled between
Dianthus code name ‘96-02’ as female parent, and *Dianthus*
code name ‘94-21’ as male parent. Both parents have been
raised by the inventor and retained as breeding parents for
their red flowers. Neither parent has been released or pat-
ented.

‘WP PASSION’ is distinguishable from both of parents by
the vibrancy and intensity of its red flowers which the inven-
tor considers to be so far unmatched amongst *Dianthus* of his
origination or known in commerce.

The variety of *Dianthus* which is considered by the inven-
tor to most closely resemble ‘WP PASSION’ is *Dianthus*
‘Devon General’ (unpatented). ‘Devon General’ has crimson
flowers and grayer foliage while ‘WP PASSION’ has deep red
flowers.

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Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by the inventor in 2003 in a cultivated area of Hound-
spool, United Kingdom. The method of asexual propagation
used was vegetative cuttings. Since that time the characteris-
tics of the new cultivar have been determined stable and are
reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new *Dianthus* cultivar ‘WP
PASSION’. These traits in combination distinguish this cul-
tivar from all other commercial varieties known to the inven-
tor. ‘WP PASSION’ has not been tested under all possible
conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed with
variations in environmental, climatic and cultural conditions,
however, without any variance in genotype.

1. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ exhibits a compact habit.
2. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ blooms profusely.
3. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ exhibits flowers that are a
deep red from February through October.
4. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ exhibits grey-green foliage.
5. At maturity, the height of the foliage mound of *Dianthus*
‘WP PASSION’ is 30 cm to 35 cm; the width is 20 cm to
25 cm.
6. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ is perennial and is hardy to
−15° C.
7. *Dianthus* ‘WP PASSION’ is suitable for use as a flow-
ering plant in pots and containers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Dianthus* variety ‘WP PASSION’
showing colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in
colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings

may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the new variety 'WP PASSION'.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 1 depicts an entire flowering plant.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flower.

All drawings were made of plants grown in 1.5-liter containers in a cold glasshouse in Devon, United Kingdom. No chemicals were used to treat the plants. All drawings were made using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar 'WP PASSION'. Data was collected in spring from 1.5-liter container plants in spring, and grown indoors in Devon, United Kingdom. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2002 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The colors of stems, leaves, calyx, and epicalyx have been noted on plants which retain the characteristic waxy bloom of *Dianthus*. No chemicals were used to treat the plants. Growing conditions are typical to other *Dianthus*.

Botanical classification: *Dianthus* 'WP PASSION'.

Species: *×hybrida*.

Common name: Dwarf *Dianthus*.

Commercial classification: *Dianthus* hybrid.

Type: Perennial.

Use: Used as a flowering plant for pots and containers and for planting in the garden or landscape.

Parentage: 'WP PASSION' is a complex hybrid plant that resulted from the controlled pollination between the following parent plants:

Female parent plant.—*Dianthus* '96.02'.

Male parent plant.—*Dianthus* '94.21'.

Plant description:

Bloom period.—February through October.

Plant habit.—Compact mound with many branches and stems; upright growth.

Plant height.—30 cm to 35 cm after 9 months.

Plant width.—20 cm to 25 cm after 9 months.

Plant hardiness.—Hardy to minus 15° Centigrade.

Root system.—Fine fibrous roots.

Propagation.—Propagation is accomplished using vegetative cuttings.

Cultural requirements.—Grow in full sun, with moderate water, and well-drained moderately fertile soil. Remove dead flower heads to maintain flowering.

Diseases and pests.—Susceptible to known *Dianthus* pests and disease but no other susceptibilities to pests or disease are known to the inventor.

Time and temperature needed to produce a rooted cutting.—3 weeks are needed to produce roots on cuttings using a mist propagation unit with bottom heat of 21° Centigrade, and a minimum air temperature of 15° Centigrade.

Crop time.—3 months starting in the early spring through summer and 6 months starting in the fall is needed to produce a finished container size plant from a well-rooted cutting.

5 Stem:

Shape.—Cylindrical.

Stem dimensions.—10 cm to 14 cm in height and 3 mm in diameter.

Stem surface.—Glabrous and glaucous.

10 *Stem color*.—145C.

Branching.—Numerous shoots from the axils of the lower leaves.

Internode length.—10 mm to 15 mm between nodes.

Node color.—145C.

15 *Node dimensions*.—4 mm in length and 3 mm in diameter.

Foliage:

Type.—Evergreen.

Shape.—Linear and straight.

20 *Division*.—Simple.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Decurrent.

Venation.—Not Prominent.

Margins.—Entire.

25 *Attachment*.—Sheathing.

Arrangement.—Opposite or spiraling.

Surfaces (adaxial and abaxial).—Glaucous.

Leaf dimensions.—70 mm to 85 mm in length and 3 mm to 4 mm in width.

30 *Leaf color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces)*.—Between 198A and 191A.

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flowers:

Inflorescence.—Cymose.

35 *Number of flowers per stem*.—From 3 to 5.

Peduncle dimensions.—170 mm to 200 mm in length and 3 mm in width.

Peduncle strength.—Erect.

40 *Peduncle color*.—189A.

Flower development.—In sequence from the uppermost bud.

Flower type.—Salviform, double and symmetrical.

Flower shape.—Circular.

Flower profile.—Reflexed.

45 *Flower dimensions*.—Including calyx): 37 mm in length and 40 mm in width.

Fragrance.—Medium.

Petals.—Number: 20–30 petals. Profile, upper part of corolla: Convex. Profile, lower part of corolla: Concave. Arrangement: Persistent, double, apopetalous, overlapping. Margin: Entire to sinuate. Texture: Soft. Shape: Obdeltoid. Surface: Glabrous. Dimensions: 35 mm to 40 mm in length and 18 mm to 22 mm in width. Color (adaxial surface): Ground color of blade: Between 46A and 53A. Band across blade: No band. Middle of strap: 145C. Base of strap: 145D. Color (abaxial surface): Ground color of blade: 63B. Band across blade: No band. Middle of strap: 145C. Base of strap: 145D.

Calyx.—Shape: Cylindrical Longitudinal profile: Flat. Dimensions: 20 mm to 25 mm in length and 8 mm to 10 mm in diameter. Sepals: Fused. Number of sepals: 5. Sepal color (both surfaces): 138A and 143C. Anthocyanin: Present only in the border. Splitting: Not observed.

Epicalyx.—Bracts: 1 pair of 2. Shape of outer lobe: Acuminate. Dimensions: 9 mm in length and 14 mm in width. Color: 136B on the tip and 144B on the blade. Anthocyanin: Not present.

Bracteoles.—Number: 2 Dimensions: 7 mm in length and 10 mm in width. Color: 136B on the tip and 144B on the blade. Anthocyanin: Not present.

Lastingness of flower.—Each individual flower lasts an average of 10 days at 20° C. on the plant.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—No true stamens, all are petaloid. 10–15' petaloid stamens present.

Anthers.—None.

Pollen.—Absent.

Style.—Number: 2 or 3. Shoulder: Absent. Color: NN155D. Dimensions: 15 mm to 25 mm in length and 1 mm in width.

Stigma.—Number: Single. Color: 59A. Dimensions: 3 mm to 5 mm above petals.

Ovary.—Position: Superior. Dimensions: 7 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter. Shape: Spindle. Color (adaxial): 144C. Color (abaxial): 145C.

Seed.—Number: 1–10. Dimensions: 3 mm in length and 2 mm in width. Color: 202A Shape: Oval and flattened. Surface: Crinkled.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Dianthus* plant named 'WP PASSION' as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1

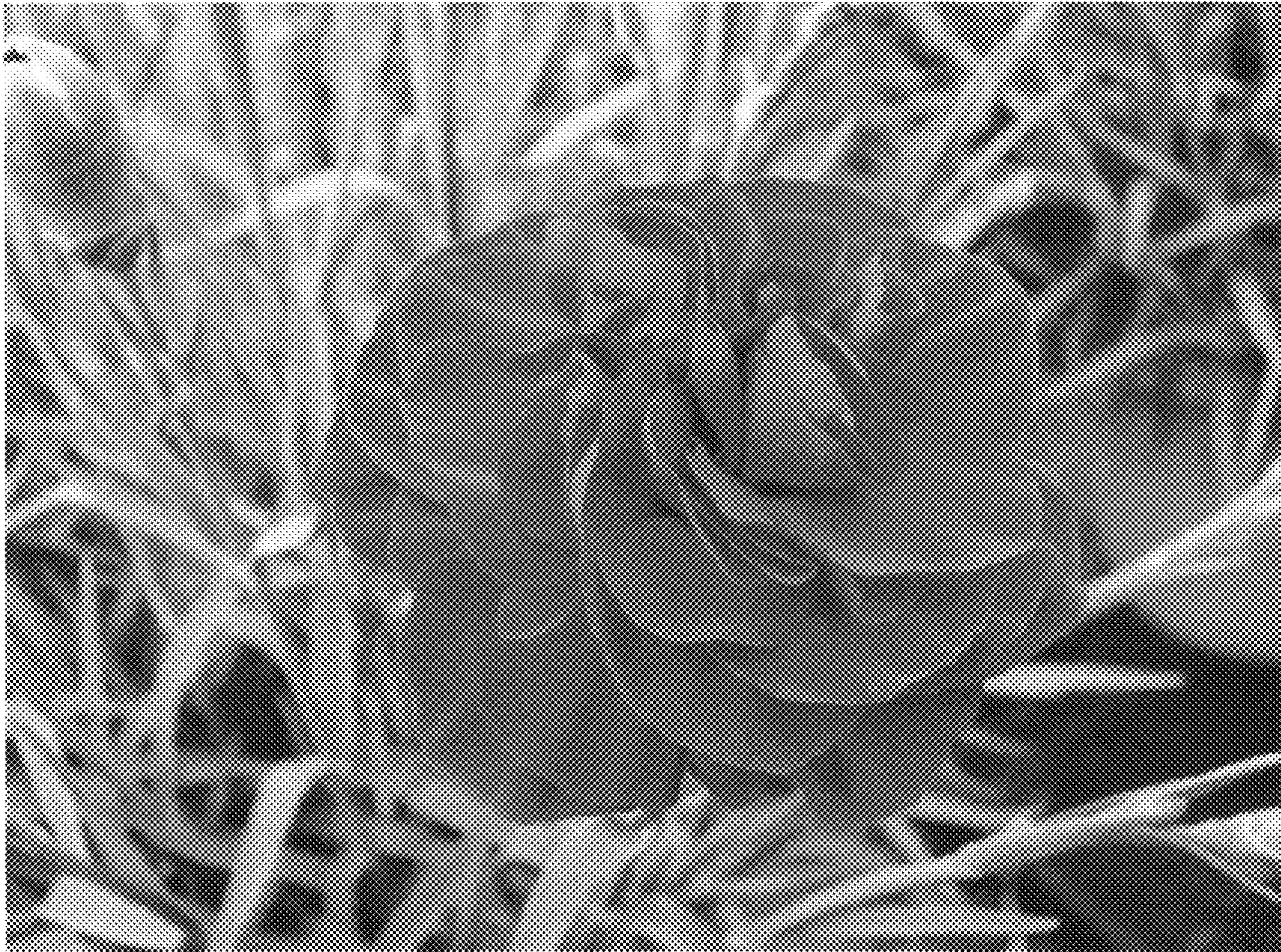


FIG. 2