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Vanderhaegen

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(54) **RHODODENDRON PLANT NAMED**
‘HORT200101’

(50) Latin Name: *Rhododendron simsii*
Varietal Denomination: **Hort200101**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Rhododendron* plant named ‘Hort200101’
that is characterized by dark shiny green leaves, dark red
flowers, an absence of bracts and red branches.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii*.
Variety denomination: ‘Hort200101’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Rhododendron* plant botanically known as *Rhododendron*
simsii and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘Hort200101’.

The new cultivar is the product of a breeding program
conducted by the inventor in a cultivated area of Kruisho-
utem, Belgium. The objective of the breeding program is to
develop new *Rhododendron* cultivars that have long lasting
flowers and bright green leaves.

‘Hort200101’ is a hybrid that originated from the hybrid-
ization of the female or seed parent a proprietary selection of
Rhododendron simsii identified as ‘97468’ (not patented) and
the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhodo-*
dendron simsii identified as ‘93085’ (not patented). The
crossing was conducted in 2001. The cultivar ‘Hort200101’
was selected by the inventor in December of 2002 as a single
plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a greenhouse
environment of Kruishoutem, Belgium.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘Hort200101’ by
cuttings was first performed in December of 2002 in Kruisho-
utem, Belgium. Since that time, under careful observation,
the unique characteristics of the new cultivar have been uni-
form, stable and reproduced true to type in successive gen-
erations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics
of the new *Rhododendron* cultivar ‘Hort200101’. These traits
in combination distinguish ‘Hort200101’ as a new and dis-
tinct cultivar.

1. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort200101’ exhibits dark shiny green
leaves.
2. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort200101’ exhibits dark red flowers.
3. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort200101’ exhibits an absence of
bracts.
4. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort200101’ exhibits red branches.

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The closest comparison varieties are *Rhododendron* ‘Vogel
Jimmy Kint’ (not patented) and ‘Otto’ (not patented).

‘Hort200101’ is different than ‘Vogel Jimmy Kint’ in hav-
ing darker green leaves, no bracts and red branches.
5 ‘Hort200101’ has dark red flowers. The flowers of ‘Vogel
Jimmy Kint’ are lighter red.

‘Hort200101’ is different than ‘Otto’ in having darker
green leaves, no bracts and red branches. ‘Hort200101’ has
dark red flowers. The flowers of ‘Otto’ are lighter red.

10 In comparison to the female or seed parent ‘97468’,
‘Hort200101’ differs in having larger flowers and less frost
resistance. In comparison to the male or pollen parent
‘93085’, ‘Hort200101’ differs in having a more compact
habit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photograph illustrates the distinguish-
ing traits of *Rhododendron* ‘Hort200101’.

20 The plant in the photograph shows an overall view of a 24
month old plant.

The photograph was taken using conventional techniques
and although colors may appear different from actual colors
due to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by con-
ventional photographic techniques.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

30 The following is a detailed description of the new *Rhodo-*
dendron cultivar named ‘Hort200101’. Data was collected in
Kruishoutem, Belgium from 24 month old greenhouse grown
plants in 1.0 liter containers. The time of year was Spring and
the average temperature was 22° Centigrade during the day
and 18° Centigrade at night. The light level was 5000 Klux
and there were no photoperiodic treatments. Color determi-
35 nations are in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Soci-
ety Colour Chart 2001 edition, except where general color
terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The grow-
ing requirements are similar to the species. ‘Hort200101’ has
not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic
40 differences may be observed with variations in environmen-
tal, climatic, and cultural conditions, however, without any
variance in genotype.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii* 'Hort200101'.
Use: Ornamental Perennial Shrub.

Parentage: 'Hort200101' is a hybrid of the female or seed parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '97468' and the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '93085'.

Vigor: Moderately strong

Growth rate: Approximately 8 cm. in height and 15 cm. in width per year.

Growth habit: Broad upright, densely branched.

Plant shape: Flattened globose.

Suitable container size: 1.0 liter container.

Height: Average 27 cm. in height.

Width: Average 40 cm. in width.

Hardiness: 0° to 40° C.

Propagation: Cuttings.

Time to initiate roots: Approximately 30 days to produce roots on an initial cutting.

Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner: Approximately 60 days.

Root system: Fine and fibrous.

Stem:

Branching habit.—Freely branching.

Average number of lateral branches.—3.

Pinching.—Yes.

Lateral branch diameter.—3 mm. in diameter.

Lateral branch length.—11 cm. in length.

Lateral branch strength.—Moderately strong.

Stem color.—185A.

Pubescence.—Dense, short.

Internode length.—8 mm. between nodes.

Shape.—Round.

Surface.—Dull.

Stem strength.—Moderately strong.

Foliage:

Texture.—Very glossy, slightly leathery.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate, clustered towards the top of the stems.

Compound or single.—Single.

Quantity of leaves per lateral branch.—16.

Leaf shape.—Elliptic.

Leaf apex.—Obtuse.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Leaf length.—3.8 cm. in length.

Leaf width.—1.5 cm. in width.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Vein pattern.—Pinnate.

Young leaf color (upper surface).—141A.

Young leaf color (lower surface).—141B.

Mature leaf color (upper surface).—131A.

Mature leaf color (lower surface).—131A.

Vein color (lower surface).—131B.

Vein color (upper surface).—131B.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Petiole dimensions.—8 mm. in length, slightly flattened 2 mm. in width, 1 mm. in height.

Petiole color.—143C.

Durability of foliage to stress.—Moderate.

Flower:

Flower arrangement.—Terminal clusters.

Inflorescence type.—Funnelform.

Inflorescence dimensions.—9 cm. in diameter and 5 cm. in height.

Flowering habit.—Continuously once a year.

Quantity of flowers per lateral stem.—Approximately 5.

Quantity of flower buds per lateral stem.—Approximately 1 to 5.

Quantity of flowers and buds per plant.—Approximately 60.

Flowering season.—February to April.

Time to flower or response time.—2 to 4 weeks depending on temperature regime.

Rate of flower opening.—After the first flower of a cluster has opened, all flowers of that cluster will open in approximately 14 days.

Fragrance.—None.

Self-cleaning or persistent.—Persistent.

Flower bud length.—9 mm. in length.

Flower bud diameter.—7 mm. in diameter.

Flower bud shape.—Ovate.

Rate of bud opening.—10 days.

Flower aspect.—Upright.

Flower shape.—Funnelform.

Flower dimensions.—5.5 cm. in diameter and 2.5 cm. in height.

Flower longevity.—Lasts approximately 21 days on plant.

Petal appearance.—Dull, slight velvety.

Petal texture.—Glabrous.

Petal arrangement.—Funnelform, rosette.

Number of petals.—Approximately five in number.

Petals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Petal shape.—Obovate.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Petal apex.—Rounded.

Petal dimensions.—2.1 cm. in length and 1.8 cm. in width.

Petal color when opening (upper side).—53B.

Petal color when opening (under side).—53B.

Petal color when fully opened (upper side).—53B with 46A on the throat.

Petal color when fully opened (under side).—53B.

Petal color fading to.—Not fading.

Calyx:

Calyx shape.—Rounded.

Sepals:

Sepal appearance.—Dull, pubescent.

Number of sepals.—Five in number.

Sepals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Sepal shape.—Ovate.

Sepal margin.—Entire.

Sepal dimensions.—2 mm. in length and 2 mm. in width.

Reproduction organs:

Stamen number.—1.

Anther shape.—Fused to petals.

Pistil number.—1 in number.

Pistil dimensions.—2.0 cm. in length.

Stigma shape.—Club shaped.

Stigma color.—155C.

Style length.—1.7 cm.

Seed: Seed production has not been observed to date.

Disease and pest resistance: Plants of the new *Rhododendron* have not been observed for disease or pest resistance.

The invention claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Rhododendron* plant named Hort200101 as described and illustrated.

