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(54) ***RHODODENDRON* PLANT NAMED 'HORT200001'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Rhododendron simsii***
Varietal Denomination: **Hort200001**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Rhododendron* plant named 'Hort200001' that is characterized by dark green leaves, double white flowers with a slight greenish tint, the absence of bracts and a compact habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii*.
Variety denomination: 'Hort200001'.

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 'Hort200001'.

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

'Hort200001' is a hybrid that originated from the hybridization of the female or seed parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '90111' (not patented) and the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '94248' (not patented). The crossing was conducted in 2000. The cultivar 'Hort200001' was selected by the inventor in December of 2001 as a single plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a greenhouse environment of Kruishoutem, Belgium.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar 'Hort200001' by cuttings was first performed in December of 2001 in Kruishoutem, Belgium. Since that time, under careful observation, the unique characteristics of the new cultivar have been uniform, stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new Rhododendron cultivar 'Hort200001'. These traits in combination distinguish 'Hort200001' as a new and distinct cultivar.

1. *Rhododendron* 'Hort200001' exhibits dark green leaves.
2. *Rhododendron* 'Hort200001' exhibits double white flowers with a slight greenish tint.
3. *Rhododendron* 'Hort200001' exhibits an absence of bracts.
4. *Rhododendron* 'Hort200001' exhibits a compact habit.

The closest comparison varieties are *Rhododendron* 'Vogel Troch White' (not patented) and 'Kint White' (not patented). 'Hort200001' is different than 'Vogel Troch White' in having

darker green leaves, no bracts and a more compact habit. 'Hort200001' has flowers with a green tint. The flowers of 'Vogel Troch White' are all white. 'Hort200001' is different than 'Kint White' in having no bracts, a longer flowering period and a more compact habit. 'Hort200001' has double flowers with a green tint. The flowers of 'Kint White' are single all white flowers.

In comparison to the female or seed parent '90111', 'Hort200001' differs in having a more compact habit and in retaining leaves during the winter. In comparison to the male or pollen parent '94248', 'Hort200001' differs in having white flowers. The flowers of '94248' are pink.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photograph illustrates the distinguishing traits of *Rhododendron* 'Hort200001'. 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 conventional photographic techniques.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Rhododendron* cultivar named 'Hort200001'. 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 determinations are in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species. 'Hort200001' 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.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii* 'Hort200001'.

Use: Ornamental Perennial Shrub.

Parentage: 'Hort200001' is a hybrid of the female or seed parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii*

identified as '90111' and the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '94248' (not patented).

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 22 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.—144B, older stems 200C to 200D.

Pubescence.—Dense, length 1.5 mm, color 175C to 175D.

Internode length.—8 mm. between nodes.

Shape.—Round.

Surface.—Dull.

Stem strength.—Moderately strong.

Foliage:

Texture.—Glossy, slightly leathery.

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

Compound or single.—Single.

Quantity of leaves per lateral branch.—18.

Leaf shape.—Obovate.

Leaf apex.—Obtuse.

Leaf base.—Attenuate.

Leaf length.—4.2 cm. in length.

Leaf width.—1.8 cm. in width.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Vein pattern.—Pinnate.

Young leaf color (*upper surface*).—144A.

Young leaf color (*lower surface*).—144B.

Mature leaf color (*upper surface*).—139A.

Mature leaf color (*lower surface*).—137B.

Vein color (*lower surface*).—143C.

Vein color (*upper surface*).—143A.

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.—Double.

Inflorescence dimensions.—7 cm. in diameter and 6 cm. in height.

Flowering habit.—Continuously once a year.

Quantity of flowers per lateral stem.—Approximately 5 to 8.

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

Quantity of flowers and buds per plant.—Approximately 90, approximately 4 flowers/bud.

Flowering season.—February to May.

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.—8 mm. in length.

Flower bud diameter.—6 mm. in diameter.

Flower bud shape.—Ovate.

Bud color.—144A.

Rate of bud opening.—10 days.

Flower aspect.—Upright to outward.

Flower shape.—Funnelform, rounded.

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

Flower longevity.—Lasts approximately 24 days on plant.

Petal appearance.—Dull, slight velvety.

Petal texture.—Glabrous.

Petal arrangement.—Funnelform, rosette.

Number of petals.—Approx. five in number.

Petals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Petal shape.—Rounded.

Petal margin.—Entire, slightly wavy.

Petal apex.—Rounded.

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

Petal color when opening (*upper side*).—145C.

Petal color when opening (*under side*).—145C.

Petal color when fully opened (*upper side*).—N155C with a tint of 145C toward the base.

Petal color when fully opened (*under side*).—N155C with a tint of 145C toward the base.

Calyx:

Calyx shape.—Rounded.

Sepals:

Sepal appearance.—Dull, pubescent.

Number of sepals.—Five in number.

Sepals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Sepal shape.—Rounded.

Sepal margin.—Entire.

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

Bracts: Absent.

Reproduction organs:

Stamen number.—1.

Anther shape.—Fused to petal.

Pistil number.—1 in number.

Pistil dimensions.—3.5 cm. in length.

Stigma shape.—Club shaped.

Stigma color.—155C.

Style length.—3 cm.

Style color.—155C.

Ovary color.—155C.

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 Hort200001 as described and illustrated.

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