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

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(54) **PHLOX PLANT NAMED ‘RED CARIBBEAN’**

(50) Latin Name: *Phlox paniculata*
Varietal Denomination: **Red Caribbean**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./320**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./320**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Phlox* plant named ‘Red Car-
ibbean’, particularly distinguished by bright red-colored
flowers, compact habit, healthy foliage, and good mildew
resistance, is disclosed.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Phlox
paniculata*.

Variety denomination: ‘Red Caribbean’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Phlox* plant botanically known as *Phlox paniculata* and
hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Red Caribbean’.
The new cultivar originated from an open pollination in 2006
in a nursery location in Haarlem, The Netherlands between
unknown male and female *Phlox paniculata* plants.

The new cultivar was selected from the results of the open
pollination in 2007 in Haarlem, The Netherlands. Asexual
reproduction of the new *Phlox* by vegetative cuttings in a
controlled environment in Haarlem, The Netherlands since
the summer of 2007, has shown that the unique features of the
Phlox are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing
characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal
horticultural practices in Haarlem, The Netherlands:

1. Bright red-colored flowers;
2. Compact habit;
3. Healthy foliage; and
4. Good mildew resistance.

Of the many commercially available *Phlox* cultivars, the
most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Latest Red’,
not patented. However, in side by side comparisons in Haar-
lem, The Netherlands, plants of the new cultivar ‘Red Carib-
bean’ differ from plants of ‘Latest Red’ by having healthier
foliage, thicker stems, and a sturdier, more compact plant
habit. Additionally, ‘Red Caribbean’ flowers more evenly and
earlier in the season with flowers that have a richer color than
those of ‘Latest Red’.

In addition, plants of the new cultivar ‘Red Caribbean’ are
similar to ‘Piña Colada’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,968. How-
ever, in side by side comparisons in Haarlem, The Nether-

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lands, plants of the new cultivar ‘Red Caribbean’ differ from
plants of ‘Piña Colada’ in flower color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is
reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of
this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new
cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the
color values cited in the detailed description, which accu-
rately describes the colors of ‘Red Caribbean’. The plant was
grown for approximately 1 year in a 1.5-liter container in
Haarlem, The Netherlands in an outdoor nursery location.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side view of the
overall growth and habit of ‘Red Caribbean’.

The photograph on the top of the second sheet is a close-up
view of the inflorescence of ‘Red Caribbean’.

The photograph on the bottom of the second sheet is a
close-up view of the foliage of ‘Red Caribbean’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural
Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where gener-
al color terms of ordinary significance are used. The data
which define these characteristics were collected from
asexual reproductions carried out in Haarlem, The Nether-
lands. The plant history was taken in September on 1-year-old
plants in 1.5 liter containers which were planted and grown
outdoors in daytime temperatures between 12° C. and 32° C.
and nighttime temperatures between 4° C. and 16° C. No
pinching, growth retardants or photoperiodic treatments were
used. Observations were made when the plants were in natu-
ral daylight conditions.

Botanical classification: *Phlox paniculata* cultivar 'Red Caribbean'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Unknown *Phlox paniculata*.

Male parent.—Unknown *Phlox paniculata*.

Plant description:

Type.—Herbaceous perennial. Overall shape: Narrow inverted triangle. High temperature tolerance: Tolerant to at least 35° C. Low temperature tolerance: Hardy to at least USDA Zone 4.

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 25 weeks from rooted cutting to finish in a 1.5 liter container.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Upright, low to moderately vigorous.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 31.3 cm. Width: Approximately 14.3 cm. Rate of growth: In spring, approximately 7 cm per month.

Branching habit.—Low to moderate basal branching; pinching will improve basal branching; flowering stems grow from base. Quantity of branches per plant: Approximately 3 flowering stems.

Stem.—Shape: Rounded. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length to base of inflorescence: Approximately 23.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 2.3 cm. Texture: Glabrous, slightly glossy. Color of young stems: N186C. Color of mature stems: 146B to 146C.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per stem: Approximately 20. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite. Durability to stress: High.

Leaves.—Shape: Narrow elliptic, very slightly carinate. Margin: Slightly wavy, slightly revolute, very short and finely serrate with approximately 30 teeth per cm. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 6.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 2.4 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 143A to 143B; margins heavily flushed with N187A with venation of 144B to 144C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 144B; margins heavily flushed with N187A with venation of 146D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 137A with venation of 144B to 144C. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 146B to 147B with venation of 146D.

Petiole.—Shape: V-shaped. Length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Height: Approximately 2.5 mm. Color: 144B to 144C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from summer through late summer.

Lastingness of flower on the plant.—Approximately 10 days.

Flowering response time.—Approximately 60 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Compound terminal panicle, self-cleaning. Fragrance: Faint, sweet and pleasant; typical *Phlox paniculata* scent. Height: Approximately 8.6 cm. Width: Approximately 9.4 cm. Quantity of opened flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 30. Rate of flower opening: Approximately 20% of the flowers at any stage.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect primary peduncles with secondary peduncles at approximately a 40° angle. Length of primary: Approx-

mately 5.6 cm. Diameter of primary: Approximately 2.5 mm. Length of secondary: Approximately 1.4 cm. Diameter of secondary: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 146B to 146C with secondary peduncles flushed with N186C.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single. Shape: Salverform. Aspect: Upright to outward.

Bud just before opening.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 30. Shape: Narrow oblanceolate. Length: Approximately 2.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.0 mm. Color: Petals of 64A to 64B with tube area of N79A to N79B; calyx N186B with base of 146B to 146C. Rate of opening: Approximately 4 days.

Corolla.—Depth: Approximately 3.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.3 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5, lower 60% of each petal fused into a narrow tube. Arrangement: Rotate. Appearance: Dull. Shape, lobe: Spathulate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Broadly rounded. Length: Approximately 3.6 cm. Length of free portion: Approximately 1.5 cm. Width: Approximately 1.7 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth. Color of upper surface when first open: N66B with N66A at tube opening; tube of N77B. Color of lower surface when first open: 67B with the tube of N79A to N79B. Color of upper surface when fully open: 75B with heavy stripes and marbling of N57B toward the tube opening; N66A at tube opening; tube of N79D. Color of lower surface when fully open: 68A to 68B with the tube of N79A to N79B.

Calyx.—Shape: Campanulate. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm.

Sepals.—Quantity: 5, lower 60% fused into a narrow tube. Arrangement: In a single whorl. Appearance: Moderately glossy. Shape: Linear. Margin: Entire. Apex: Narrow apiculate. Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Width: Approximately 1.5 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth. Color of upper and lower surfaces of immature sepals: N187B with 146C at base. Color of upper and lower surfaces of mature sepals: N187B with 146C at base.

Pedicel.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect when directly adjoining peduncle, others at an approximately 60° angle. Length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 146B to 146C flushed with N186C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 5 per flower, basifixed. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: Approximately 1.5 mm. Filament length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 8D. Pollen amount: Low to moderate. Pollen color: 11C to 11D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 1.8 cm. Stigma shape: Cleft (3-parted). Stigma color: 150B to 150C. Style length: Approximately 1.7 cm. Style color: 182D. Ovary color: 143A.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Good mildew resistance. No particular resistance or susceptibility to other diseases or insects noted to date.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Phlox* plant named 'Red Caribbean', substantially as herein shown and described.



