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Heuger

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(54) **HELLEBORUS PLANT NAMED ‘COSEH210’**

(50) Latin Name: *Helleborus niger*
Varietal Denomination: **COSEH210**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./439**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant named
‘COSEH 210’, characterized by its upright and mounded
plant habit; dark green-colored leaves; early and freely flow-
ering habit; and large white-colored flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Helleborus niger*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘COSEH 210’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Helleborus* plant, botanically known as *Helleborus niger*,
and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘COSEH 210’.

The new *Helleborus* plant is a product of a planned breed-
ing program in Glandorf, Germany. The objective of the
breeding program was to create new uniform *Helleborus*
cultivars with unique and attractive flower coloration and
resistance to pests.

The new *Helleborus* plant originated from a cross-pollina-
tion conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany in
December, 2002 of two unnamed proprietary seedling selec-
tions of *Helleborus niger*, not patented. The new *Helleborus*
plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single
flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-
pollination grown in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Glandorf, Germany in November, 2004.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* plant by divi-
sions in a controlled greenhouse environment in Glandorf,
Germany since February, 2005, has shown that the unique
features of this new *Helleborus* plant are stable and repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been observed under
all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may
vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural
practices such as temperature and light intensity without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘COSEH 210’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘COSEH
210’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus*:

1. Upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Dark green-colored leaves.
3. Early and freely flowering habit.
4. Large white-colored flowers.

Compared to plants of the parent selections, plants of the
new *Helleborus* are more uniform and more freely flowering.

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Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of
Helleborus niger ‘HGC Josef Lemper’, disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 15,615. Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ
primarily from plants of ‘HGC Josef Lemper’ in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have darker green-colored
leaves than plants of ‘HGC Josef Lemper’.
2. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have shorter leaf petioles
than plants of ‘HGC Josef Lemper’.
3. Plants of the new *Helleborus* flower earlier than plants of
‘HGC Josef Lemper’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the over-
all appearance of the new *Helleborus* plant, showing the
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed
botanical description which accurately describe the colors of
the new *Helleborus* plant.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a
typical flowering plant of ‘COSEH 210’ grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observa-
tions, measurements and values describe plants grown in
Glandorf, Germany in 13-cm containers during the winter in
an outdoor nursery and under conditions which closely
approximate commercial *Helleborus* production. During the
production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 5° C.
to 32° C. and night temperatures ranged from 1° C. to 25° C.
Plants had been growing for one year when the photograph
and the description were taken. In the following description,
color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society
Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of
ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Helleborus niger* ‘COSEH 210’.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary seed-
ling selection of *Helleborus niger*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unnamed proprietary seed-
ling selection of *Helleborus niger*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By divisions.

Time to initiate roots.—About 56 days at 12° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About five months at 4° C. to 15° C. 5

Root description.—Thick to thin, fleshy; white to brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Sparse.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; upright and mounded plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit. 10

Plant height.—About 15 cm to 20 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 30 cm to 35 cm. 15

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Palmately compound with five to seven leaflets per leaf.

Leaflet length.—About 4 cm to 8 cm.

Leaflet width.—About 1.5 cm to 4 cm. 20

Leaflet shape.—Roughly ovate.

Leaflet apex.—Broadly acuminate.

Leaflet base.—Asymmetrically acute.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate.

Leaflet texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; leathery. 25

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B. Fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to 147A; venation, close to 146B. Fully developed leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 146D. 30

Petiole.—Length: About 2 mm to 8 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144B tinged with close to 200B. 35

Flower description:

Flower shape and habit.—Single rotate flowers; freely flowering habit, about 30 to 40 flowers developing per plant. Petals not observed. 40

Fragrance.—Moderately fragrant, pleasant.

Natural flowering season.—Early and long flowering period; plants flower from mid-November to February in Germany. 45

Flower longevity on the plant.—About three weeks; flowers persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1 cm to 2 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm to 10 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Between 155A to 145D.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 8 cm to 9 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 4 cm to 4.5 cm. Width: About 3 cm to 4 cm. Shape: Broadly ovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to NN155D; color becoming closer to 145C to 145A with development; basal spot, close to 144A to 144B. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to NN155D; basal spot, close to 144B.

Peduncles.—Strength: Strong. Length: About 15 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 5 mm. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 145B overlain with close to 183B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 100. Anther shape: Elliptical. Anther length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Anther color: Close to 3B. Pollen amount: None observed. Pistils: Quantity per flower: About six to nine. Pistil length: About 1.5 cm. Stigma shape: Pointed. Stigma color: Close to 155A. Style length: About 8 mm. Style color: Close to 155A. Ovary color: Close to 150D. Nectaries: Quantity per flower: About twelve. Length: About 8 mm to 9 mm. Shape: Incurved. Color: Towards the base, close to 144C; towards the apex, close to 8A. Seeds/fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures from about -10° C. to about 36° C.

Pathogen/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Helleborus*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'COSEH 210' as illustrated and described.

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