



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP21,062 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 8, 2010**

(54) **HELLEBORUS PLANT NAMED ‘HGP01’**
(50) Latin Name: *Helleborus niger*×*Helleborus sternii*
Varietal Denomination: **HGP01**
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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 0 days.
(21) Appl. No.: **12/321,354**
(22) Filed: **Jan. 16, 2009**
(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./439**

(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
‘HGP01’, characterized by its compact, upright and mounded
plant habit; strong and vigorous growth habit; leaflets with
distinctive venation and red-colored petioles; freely flower-
ing habit; single white-colored flowers; and good garden per-
formance

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Helleborus niger*×*Helleborus ster-
nii*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘HGP01’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Helleborus* plant, botanically known as *Helleborus niger*×
Helleborus sternii, and hereinafter referred to by the name
‘HGP01’.

The new *Helleborus* is a product of a planned breeding
program in Suffolk, United Kingdom. The objective of the
breeding program was to create new frost-tolerant *Helleborus*
cultivars with unique and attractive flower coloration.

The new *Helleborus* plant originated from a cross-pollina-
tion in Suffolk, United Kingdom in 2001, of a proprietary
selection of *Helleborus niger*, not patented, as the female, or
seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Helleborus ster-
nii*, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. 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 environment in
Suffolk, United Kingdom in 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* plant by tissue
culture in a controlled environment in The Netherlands since
2002, has shown that the unique features of this new *Helle-
borus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in succes-
sive 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 ‘HGP01’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘HGP01’ as
a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus*:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Strong and vigorous growth habit.

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3. Dark green-colored leaflets with distinctive venation and
red-colored petioles.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Single white-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of
the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are
more freely flowering than plants of the female parent selec-
tion.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of
the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have
larger flowers than plants of the male parent selection. In
addition, plants of the new *Helleborus* and the male parent
selection differ in leaf color as plants of the male parent
selection have silvery-colored leaves.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of
Helleborus niger×*Helleborus sternii* ‘HGC Silvermoon’,
disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,639. Plants of the new
Helleborus differ primarily from plants of ‘HGC Silver-
moon’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have broader and lighter
green-colored leaves with shorter petioles than plants of
‘HGC Silvermoon’.
2. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are more freely flowering
than plants of ‘HGC Silvermoon’.
3. Plants of the new *Helleborus* flower for a longer period
of time than plants of ‘HGC Silvermoon’.
4. Plants of the new *Helleborus* and ‘HGC Silvermoon’
differ in flower color as plants of ‘HGC Silvermoon’
have white to light green-colored flowers.

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 ‘HGP01’
grown in a ground bed.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Aalsmeer, The Netherlands in containers during the spring in a glass-covered greenhouse and under conditions which closely approximate commercial *Helleborus* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 15° C. and night temperatures averaged 10° 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, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Helleborus niger* × *Helleborus sternii* 'HGP01'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus niger*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus sternii*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue culture.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous, fleshy; amber in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit; strong and vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 30 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 25 cm.

Foliage description:

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

Leaf length.—About 6 cm to 10 cm.

Leaf width.—About 4 cm to 5.5 cm.

Leaflet shape.—Ovate.

Leaflet apex.—Acute.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate.

Leaflet texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous.

Leaflet venation pattern: Pinnate; reticulate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 139A; venation, close to 141B and 176B. Fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 141B and 176B.

Petioles.—Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 183A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and shape.—Single rotate flowers arranged on cymes; flowers face outwardly. Freely flowering habit, about 18 to 24 flowers and flower buds per inflorescence. Petals transformed into nectaries.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Long flowering period; plants flower from January through March in The Netherlands.

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

Flower buds.—Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Oblate. Color: Close to 184C.

Inflorescence size.—Length: About 30 cm. Diameter: About 20 cm.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 5 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm.

Sepals.—Arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 4 cm. Width: About 3 cm. Shape: Roughly obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Slightly serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155C. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155C; color becoming closer to 56D with development.

Peduncles.—Strength: Strong. Length: About 30 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Aspect: About 60° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 194A overlain with close to 176B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 20. Anther shape: Elliptical. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 4D. Pollen amount: None observed. Pistils: Quantity per flower: About five. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Style length: About 1 cm. Style color: Close to 145C. Ovary color: Close to 145B. Nectaries: Arrangement: About 15. Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color, immature and mature: Close to 141C. 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 −20° C. to about 35° C.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'HGP01' as illustrated and described.

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