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van der Knaap

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(54) ***SPATHIPHYLLUM* PLANT NAMED**
‘SPACESSA’

(50) Latin Name: ***Spathiphyllum Schott.***
Varietal Denomination: **Spacessa**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Spathiphyllum* plant named
‘Spacessa’, characterized by its upright, outwardly arching
and uniform plant habit; freely clumping growth habit; bushy
and dense plants; large glossy dark green-colored leaves;
freely flowering habit; large white-colored spathes that are
positioned above and beyond the foliage on strong and erect
scapes; and good inflorescence longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Spathiphyllum Schott.*
Cultivar denomination: ‘Spacessa’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Spathiphyllum* plant, botanically known as *Spathiphyllum*
Schott. and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Spacessa’.

The new *Spathiphyllum* plant is a product of a controlled
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Naaldwijk,
The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to
create new year-round flowering *Spathiphyllum* cultivars that
have glossy dark green-colored leaves, large white-colored
spathes and good postproduction longevity.

The new *Spathiphyllum* plant originated from a cross-pol-
lination made by the Inventor in December, 2004, in Naald-
wijk, The Netherlands of a proprietary selection of *Spathi-*
phyllum Schott. identified as code number 20031079-001,
not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary
selection of *Spathiphyllum Schott.* identified as code number
20040805-001, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent.
The new *Spathiphyllum* was discovered and selected by the
Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the
stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environ-
ment in Naaldwijk, The Netherlands in April, 2006.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Spathiphyllum* plant by
tissue culture in a controlled environment in Maasdijk, The
Netherlands since May, 2006 has shown that the unique fea-
tures of this new *Spathiphyllum* are stable and reproduced
true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

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

1. Upright, outwardly arching and uniform plant habit.
2. Freely clumping growth habit; bushy and dense plants.

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3. Large glossy dark green-colored leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit.

5. Large white-colored spathes that are positioned above
and beyond the foliage on strong and erect scapes.

6. Good inflorescence longevity.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* differ from plants of the
female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are more vigorous than
plants of the female parent selection.

2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have glossier leaves
than plants of the female parent selection.

3. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have smaller spathes
than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* differ from plants of the
male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are more upright than
plants of the male parent selection.

2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have darker green-
colored leaves than plants of the male parent selection.

3. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have smaller spathes
than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* can also be compared to
plants of *Spathiphyllum* spp. ‘Sparego’, disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 11,457. In side-by-side comparisons conducted
in Naaldwijk, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Spathiphyll-*
lum differed from plants of ‘Sparego’ in the following char-
acteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were more vigorous
than plants of ‘Sparego’.

2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* had glossier leaves than
plants of ‘Sparego’.

3. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* had larger leaves than
plants of ‘Sparego’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Spathiphyllum*.

These photographs show the colors as true as it is reason-
ably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Spathiphyllum*.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Spacessa' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Spacessa'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in 30-cm containers in Naaldwijk,

The Netherlands during the winter in a glass-covered greenhouse. Plants were grown under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Spathiphyllum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from about 19° C. to 24° C., night temperatures ranged from about 19° C. to 22° C. and light levels were about 5,000 lux. Plants were 60 weeks old when the photographs and the detailed description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Spathiphyllum* Schott. 'Spacessa'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. identified as code number 20031079-011, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Spathiphyllum* Schott. identified as code number 20040805-001, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue culture.

Time to initiate roots.—About eleven days at 23° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About 215 to 240 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately branching, moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant shape.—Upright and outwardly arching plant habit, uniform and broad inverted triangular habit.

Growth habit.—Freely clumping, bushy and dense growth habit; about 15 clumps per plant; moderately vigorous to vigorous growth habit.

Plant height, from soil level to top of leaf plane.—About 76.8 cm.

Plant height, from soil level to top of inflorescences.—About 110.5 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 124.5 cm.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate; simple.

Length: About 37.6 cm. Width: About 15.3 cm.

Shape: Narrowly ovate to ovate. Apex: Elongated apiculate.

Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire; undulate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly leathery.

Luster, upper and lower surfaces: Glossy.

Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Between 143A and 144A.

Developing leaves, lower surface: Between 144A and 146B.

Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker than between N137A and 139A; venation, close to 143A.

Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to

137B; venation, close to 146B to 146C. Petiole: Length (excluding geniculum): About 39.3 cm. Diameter, just below geniculum: About 6.5 mm. Diameter, at plant base: About 1.3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 137A. Geniculum length: About 4.8 cm. Geniculum diameter: About 8 mm. Geniculum texture: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Geniculum color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C. Wing length: About 34 cm. Wing diameter: About 1.6 cm. Wing color: Close to 137A.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence arrangement/habit.—Cupped erect spathes with columnar spadices held above and beyond the foliage on strong and erect scapes. Flowering structures arise from leaf axils. Freely and continuous flowering year-round in The Netherlands; typically about 23 inflorescences develop per plant.

Fragrance.—Moderately fragrant; sweet and pleasant. Inflorescence longevity: Inflorescences last about three weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Spathe.—Length: About 22.3 cm. Width: About 10.3 cm. Depth: About 4.4 cm. Shape: Elliptic to broadly elliptic. Apex: Elongated apiculate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly leathery. Luster, upper and lower surfaces: Glossy. Color: When developing, front surface: Close to 155A. When developing, rear surface: Close to 155A to 155B. Fully developed, front surface: Close to N155B to N155C; at the apex, close to 145B to 145C; with development, color becoming closer to 144A to 144B. Fully developed, rear surface: Close to N155A to N155B; at the apex, close to 145A to 145B; mid-vein, close to 144B to 144C; with development, color becoming closer to 144A to 144B.

Spadix.—Length: About 8.7 cm. Diameter: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Columnar, tapering towards the apex; apex, obtuse; base, obtuse; cross-section, rounded. Aspect: Mostly erect. Color: Immature: Close to 158D. Mature: Between 158C and 11D. Flowers: Quantity per spadix: Numerous, about 350. Shape: Rounded. Height: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm. Anther color: Between 158C and 11D. Pollen amount: Moderate to abundant. Pollen color: Close to 158C. Stigma shape: Ovoid. Stigma color: Close to 199D. Ovary color: Close to 158C.

Scape.—Length: About 79.7 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect to about 15° from vertical. Color: Close to 143A; towards the base, close to 145B to 145C.

Seed and fruit.—Seed and fruit development has not been observed on plants of the new *Spathiphyllum*.

Disease/pest resistance:

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Spathiphyllum*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from about 15° C. to about 36° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Spathiphyllum* plant named 'Spacessa' as illustrated and described.



