



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

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(54) **ASTELIA PLANT NAMED ‘ASTJEL01’**
(50) Latin Name: *Astelia chathamica*
Varietal Denomination: **AstJel01**
(76) Inventor: **Geoff Jewell**, Settlement RD 2, Otaki
(NZ) 5582
(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./373**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./373
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—June Hwu

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Astelia chathamica* cultivar named
‘AstJe101’ is disclosed, characterized by having distinctive
dark bronze coloration of foliage, rapid early growth rate,
slowing to a moderate, controlled growth rate. The new vari-
ety is an *Astelia chathamica*, normally produced as an out-
door garden or container plant.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species: *Astelia chathamica*.
Variety denomination: ‘AstJe101’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new cultivar was discovered as a result of a planned
breeding program, conducted by the inventor, Geoff Jewell.
Astelia chathamica plants were self-crossed, seeds collected
and planted out during 1997 through 1999. The new variety
was discovered, by the inventor in a planting of the resulting
seedlings, in early 2001, at a commercial nursery in Te Horo,
New Zealand.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘AstJe101’ by
division was first performed at a commercial nursery in late
2001, in Te Horo, New Zealand in and has shown that the
unique features of this cultivar are stable and reproduced true
to type on successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar ‘AstJe101’ has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture, day length, and light intensity, without, however, any
variance in genotype. The following traits have been repeat-
edly observed and are determined to be the unique character-
istics of ‘AstJe101’ These characteristics in combination dis-
tinguish ‘AstJe101’ as a new and distinct *Astelia* cultivar:

1. Distinctive dark bronze coloration of foliage, darkness
enhanced by cool temperatures.
2. Rapid early growth rate, growing quickly to fill a com-
mercial 2.5 liter pot, then slowing to a moderate, con-
trolled growth rate.

PARENT COMPARISON

Plants of the new cultivar ‘AstJe101’ are similar to plants of
the parent variety, *Astelia chathamica* in most horticultural
characteristics, however, plants of the new cultivar ‘AstJe101’
have darker foliage, with bronze coloration, compared to the
species green foliage. Additionally, ‘AstJe101’ produces an
overall shorter plant than the parent variety.

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COMMERCIAL COMPARISON

Plants of the new cultivar ‘AstJe101’ are similar to plants of
the unpatented variety, *Astelia chathamica* ‘Silver Spear’ in
most horticultural characteristics, however, plants of the new
cultivar ‘AstJe101’ have darker foliage, with bronze color-
ation, compared to the grey-green foliage of *Astelia*
chathamica ‘Silver Spear.’ Additionally, ‘AstJe101’ produces
an overall shorter plant than *Astelia chathamica* ‘Silver
Spear’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph in FIG. 1 illustrates in full
color a typical plant of ‘AstJe101’ grown outdoors at a com-
mercial nursery in Te Horo, New Zealand during late Winter
and early Spring, in a 2.5 liter nursery pot. Age of the plant
photographed is approximately 6 months from a vegetative
division.

FIG. 1 shows a close up of the foliage, and

FIG. 2 shows a field of ‘AstJe101’ grown in 2.5 liter nursery
containers.

The photographs were taken using conventional tech-
niques and although colors may appear different from actual
colors due to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by
conventional photographic techniques.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where
general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.
The following observations and measurements describe
‘AstJe101’ plants grown outdoors in Te Horo, New Zealand
The growing temperature ranged from 15° C. to 35° C. during
the day and approximately 10° C. to 25° C. at night. The
plants were not grown with any kind of shade protection and
subject to outdoor, high light conditions. Measurements and
numerical values represent averages of typical plant types. No
growth retardants were used.

Botanical classification: *Astelia chathamica* cultivar 'AstJe101'.

PROPAGATION

Time to initiate roots: About 5–10 days at approximately 23° C. from unrooted divisions.
Root description: robust white roots.
Propagation method: Vegetative divisions or tissue culture.

PLANT

Growth habit: Stiff, outwardly arching.
Age of plant described: Approximately 6 months.
Container size: 2.5 liter pot.
Height: Approximately 35 cm to top of highest leaf.
Plant spread: Approximately 25–35 cm.
Growth rate: Rapid early growth rate; from a 5 cm rooted young plant to a 25 cm plant in a 2.5 liter pot takes 3–4 months in peak growing conditions. After reaching approximately 25 cm, growth slows to a moderate rate.
Branching characteristics: Non-branching, forms basal clumps.

FOLIAGE

Leaf:
Arrangement.—Non-whorled, basal clumps.
Average length.—Approx. 50 cm.
Average width.—Approx. 30–50 mm.
Shape of blade.—Elliptic.
Apex.—Narrowly acute.
Base.—Rounded.
Margin.—Entire.

Texture of top surface.—Tough leathery with noticeable ribs either side of the midrib.
Texture of bottom surface.—Tough leathery.
Quantity of leaves per plant.—Depends on age of plant, a year 2 year old plant would typically have approximately 50 leaves.
Color.—Young foliage upper side: Near RHS Greyed-Brown 200B. Young foliage under side: Near RHS Yellow-Green 148D. Mature foliage upper side: Near RHS Greyed-Purple 187A. Mature foliage under side: Near RHS Greyed-Green 191D.
Venation.—Type: Linear. Venation color upper side: Near RHS Greyed-Orange 176A. Venation color under side: Near RHS Greyed-Green 191D.

FLOWER

Natural flowering season: *Astelia chathamica* typically flowers late spring. *Astelia* 'AstJe101' has not yet been observed flowering.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Seeds and fruits: Not observed to date.
Disease/pest resistance: Neither resistance nor susceptibility to pathogens and pests common to *Astelia* have been observed.
Temperature tolerance: Tolerates temperatures from approximately –10° C. to 40° C.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Astelia chathamica* plant named 'AstJe101' as herein illustrated and described.

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Fig. 1

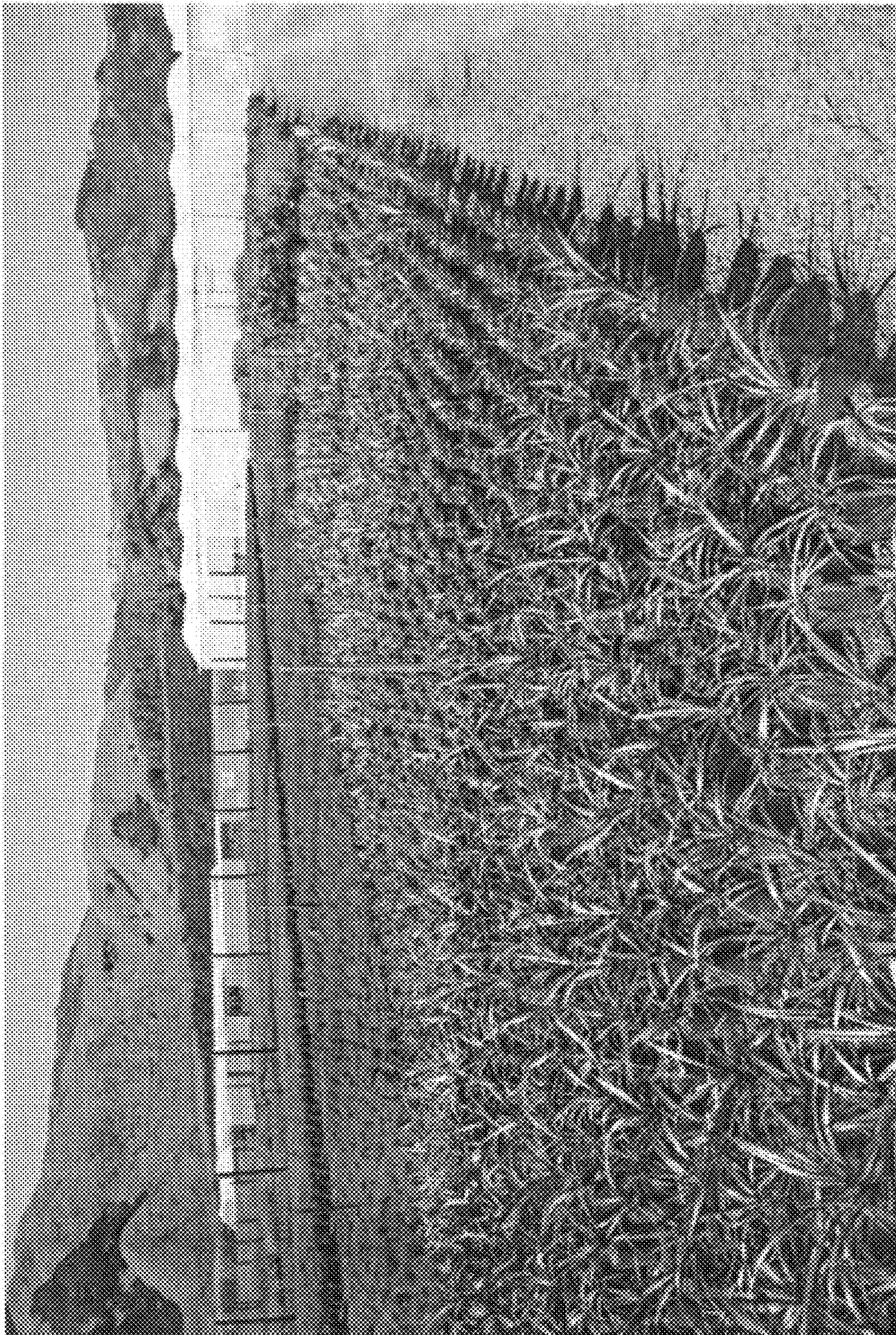


Fig. 2