



US00PP21438P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP21,438 P2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 2, 2010**

(54) **DIANTHUS PLANT NAMED ‘STARLETTE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Dianthus*×*hybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **Starlette**

(76) Inventor: **John Whetman**, Deerpark Farm,  
Chudleigh, Newton Abbey, Devon (GB)  
TQ13 0NH

(\*) 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.: **12/319,157**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 2, 2009**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 61/010,859, filed on Jan.  
14, 2008.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*A01H 5/00* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./282**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **Plt./272,**  
**Plt./282**

See application file for complete search history.

*Primary Examiner*—Annette H Para

*Assistant Examiner*—Louanne C Krawczewicz Myers

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Dianthus* plant named ‘STARLETTE’ that  
is characterized by compact habit, grey-green foliage, and  
double flowers that are colored deep raspberry pink with a  
darker center. In combination these traits set ‘STARLETTE’  
apart from all other existing varieties of *Dianthus* known to  
the inventor.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

Genus: *DIANTHUS*.  
Species: ×*hybrida*.  
Denomination: ‘STARLETTE’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This application claims the benefit of priority under 35  
U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/010,  
859 filed on Jan. 14, 2008, entitled *Dianthus* Plant named  
‘STARLETTE’.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Dianthus* that is grown for use as a flowering plant for pots  
and containers and as a hardy perennial for the garden and  
landscape. The new cultivar is known botanically as *Dian-*  
*thus*×*hybrida* and will be referred to hereinafter by the culti-  
var name ‘STARLETTE’.

‘STARLETTE’ is a complex hybrid plant that is the prod-  
uct of a long term breeding program conducted in a green-  
house environment in Houndspool, Dawlish, Devon, United  
Kingdom. The primary focus of the breeding program is to  
produce new cultivars of *Dianthus* that exhibit unique growth  
habit and flower colors. The inventor selected ‘STARLETTE’  
in 2004 for its double flowers that are deep raspberry pink  
with a darker center.

‘STARLETTE’ resulted from the controlled pollination  
between an unreleased and unpatented *Dianthus* previously  
raised by the inventor and known by its code name *Dianthus*  
‘01.19’ as female parent plant, and an unreleased and unpat-  
ented *Dianthus* previously raised by the inventor and known  
by its code name *Dianthus* ‘99.41’ as male parent plant.

‘STARLETTE’ is distinguishable from both parents which  
are taller and more vigorous and whose flowers are a paler  
color of pink. The variety of *Dianthus* which is considered by  
the inventor to most closely resemble ‘STARLETTE’ is *Dian-*  
*thus* ‘Devon Winnie’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,893). ‘Devon  
Winnie’ has dark pink flowers, but ‘STARLETTE’ has deep  
raspberry pink colored flowers with very evident dark centers.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accom-  
plished by the inventor in 2004 in a cultivated area of Hound-  
spool, Devon, United Kingdom. The method of asexual

**2**

propagation used was vegetative cuttings. Since that time the  
characteristics of the new cultivar have been determined  
stable and are reproduced true to type in successive genera-  
tions.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the characteristics of the new *Dianthus* cultivar  
‘STARLETTE’. These traits in combination distinguish this  
cultivar from all other commercial varieties known to the  
inventor. ‘STARLETTE’ has not been tested under all possi-  
ble conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed  
with variations in environmental, climatic and cultural con-  
ditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

1. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ exhibits a compact habit.
2. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ blooms profusely from May  
through October.
3. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ exhibits double flowers that  
are deep raspberry pink with a darker center.
4. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ exhibits grey-green foliage.
5. At maturity, the height of the foliage mound of *Dianthus*  
‘STARLETTE’ is 15 cm-18 cm.
6. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ is perennial and is hardy to  
−15° C.
7. *Dianthus* ‘STARLETTE’ is suitable for use as a flower-  
ing plant in pots or border.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall  
appearance of the new *Dianthus* variety ‘STARLETTE’  
showing colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in  
colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings  
may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical  
description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the  
new variety ‘STARLETTE’.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 1 depicts an entire flowering  
plant.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flower.

All drawings were made of plants grown in 1.5-liter containers in a cold (unheated) glasshouse in Devon, United Kingdom. No chemicals were used to treat the plants. All drawings were made using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar 'STARLETTE'. Data was collected in spring from plants which were 8 months old and which had been grown in 1.5 liter containers in an unheated glasshouse in Devon, United Kingdom. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2007 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The colors of stems, leaves, calyx, and epicalyx have been noted on plants which retain the characteristic waxy bloom of *Dianthus*. No chemicals were used to treat the plants. Growing conditions are typical of other *Dianthus*.

Botanical classification: *Dianthus* 'STARLETTE'.

Species: *xhybrida*.

Common name: Garden pink.

Commercial classification: *Dianthus* hybrid.

Type: Perennial.

Use: Used as a flowering plant for pots and containers and for planting in the garden or landscape.

Parentage: 'STARBURST' is a complex hybrid plant that resulted from the controlled pollination between the following parent plants:

*Female parent plant.*—*Dianthus* '01.19'.

*Male parent plant.*—*Dianthus* '99.41'.

Plant description:

*Bloom period.*—May through October.

*Plant habit.*—Compact mound with many branches and stems; upright growth.

*Plant height.*—15 cm to 18 cm.

*Plant width.*—12 cm to 17 cm.

*Plant hardiness.*—Hardy to minus 15° Centigrade.

*Root system.*—Fine fibrous roots.

*Propagation.*—Propagation is accomplished using vegetative cuttings.

*Cultural requirements.*—Grow in full sun, with moderate water, and well-drained moderately fertile soil. Remove dead flower heads to maintain flowering.

*Diseases and Pests.*—Susceptible to known *Dianthus* pests and disease but no other susceptibilities to pests or disease are known to the inventor.

*Time and temperature needed to produce a rooted cutting.*—3 weeks are needed to produce roots on cuttings using a mist propagation unit with bottom heat of 21° Centigrade, and a minimum air temperature of 15° Centigrade.

*Crop time.*—3 months starting in the early spring through summer and 6 months starting in the fall is needed to produce a finished container size plant from a well-rooted cutting.

Stem:

*Shape.*—Cylindrical.

*Stem dimensions.*—8 cm to 12 cm in height and 2 mm in diameter.

*Stem surface.*—Glabrous and glaucous.

*Stem color.*—143B.

*Branching.*—Numerous shoots from the axils of the lower leaves.

*Internode length.*—5 mm to 8 mm between nodes.

*Node color.*—143B.

*Node dimensions.*—2 mm in length and 2 mm in diameter.

Foliage:

*Type.*—Evergreen.

*Shape.*—Linear and straight.

*Division.*—Simple.

*Apex.*—Acute.

*Base.*—Decurrent.

*Venation.*—Not Prominent.

*Margins.*—Entire.

*Attachment.*—Sheathing.

*Arrangement.*—Spiraling on stem.

*Surfaces (adaxial and abaxial).*—Glaucous.

*Leaf dimensions.*—30 mm to 40 mm in length and 2 mm to 3 mm in width.

*Leaf color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).*—Between 189A and 191A.

*Fragrance.*—Absent.

Buds:

*Shape.*—Conical.

*Dimensions.*—5 mm-7 mm in diameter; 12 mm in length.

*Color.*—N138D.

*Surface.*—Smooth, waxy.

Flowers:

*Inflorescence.*—Cymose.

*Number of flowers per stem.*—From 2 to 6.

*Pediceal dimensions.*—12 mm-15 mm in length and 2 mm in width.

*Pediceal strength.*—Stiff, wiry.

*Pediceal angle.*—20°-40° away from the vertical.

*Pediceal color.*—N189C.

*Peduncle dimensions.*—18 cm to 22 cm in length and 3 mm in width.

*Peduncle strength.*—Erect.

*Peduncle color.*—N189C.

*Flower development.*—In sequence from the uppermost bud.

*Flower type.*—Salviform and symmetrical.

*Flower shape.*—Circular.

*Flower profile.*—Reflexed.

*Flower dimensions.*—(including calyx): 35 mm in length and 35 mm in width.

*Fragrance.*—Medium.

*Petals.*—Number: 15 -20 petals. Profile, upper part of corolla: Convex. Profile, lower part of corolla: Concave. Arrangement: Persistent, double, apopetalous, overlapping. Margin: Serrate, depth of indentation, 1.75 mm-3.0 mm. Texture: Soft. Shape: Obdeltoid. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Surface: Slightly hairy in the band area. Dimensions: 30 mm to 35 mm in length and 10 mm to 15 mm in width. Color (adaxial surface): Ground color of blade: N74A. Band across blade (confers the dark center to the flower): 59A. Middle of strap: 145D. Base of strap: 145C. Color (abaxial surface): Ground color of blade: 70B. Band across blade: No band. Middle of strap: 145D. Base of strap: 145C.

*Calyx*.—Shape: Cylindrical. Longitudinal profile: Flat.  
Dimensions: 20 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter.  
Sepals: Fused. Number of sepals: 5. Sepal apex:  
Acuminate. Sepal margin: Smooth. Sepal color (both  
surfaces): N138A. Sepal texture (both surfaces): 5  
Smooth. Anthocyanin: Present. Splitting: Not  
observed.

*Epicalyx*.—Bracts: 1 pair of 2. Shape of outer lobe:  
Acuminate. Dimensions: 8 mm to 10 mm in length  
and 18 mm to 20 mm in width. Color: N138A. Antho- 10  
cyanin: Present on the border.

*Bracteoles*.—Number: 2 Dimensions: 5 mm to 6 mm in  
length and 4 mm to 5 mm in width. Color: N138A.  
Anthocyanin: Not present. Lastingness of flower: 15  
Each individual flower lasts an average of 10 days at  
20° C. on the plant

Reproductive organs:

*Stamens*.—Number: 0-10. Filament color: NN155D.  
Dimensions: 15 mm-20 mm in length and 0.5 mm in 20

diameter. NB: The stamens are petaloid with the same  
blade pattern as the petals.

*Anthers*.—Not observed.

*Pollen*.—Absent.

*Style*.—Number: 2. Shoulder: Absent. Color: NN155D.  
Dimensions: 20 mm to 25 mm in length and 0.5 mm in  
width.

*Stigma*.—Number: Single. Color: 70B. Dimensions: 3  
mm to 5 mm above petals at maturity.

*Pistils*.—Number: 2, thin, thread-like, length 15 mm,  
color 155A.

*Ovary*.—Position: Superior. Dimensions: 8 mm in  
length and 4 mm in diameter. Shape: Spindle. Color  
(adaxial): 145B. Color (abaxial): 145C.

Seed: Plant is sterile. Seeds abort before becoming mature.

The invention claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Dianthus* plant named  
'STARLETTE' as described and illustrated herein.

\* \* \* \* \*



FIG. 1

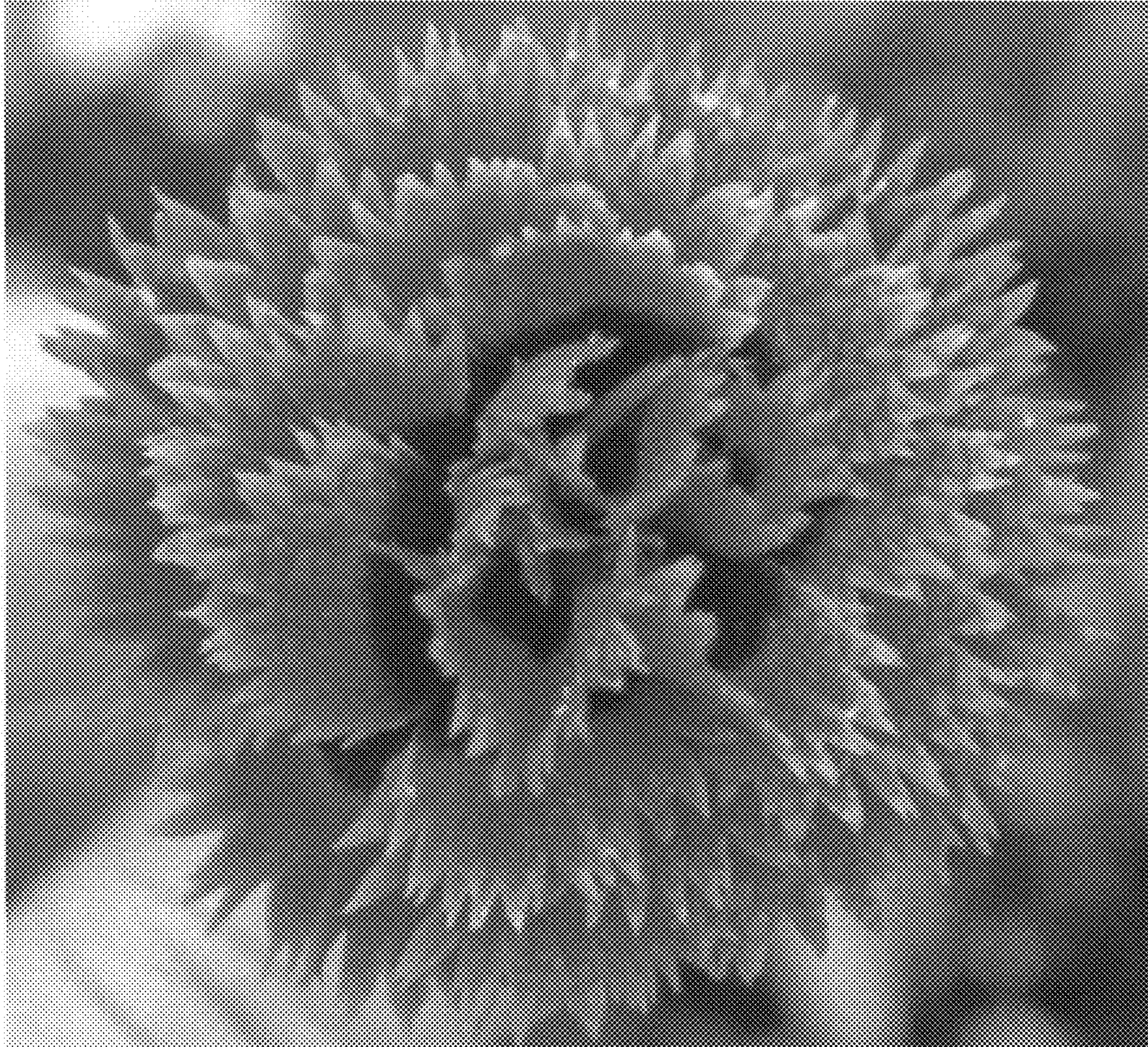


FIG. 2