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Wood

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(54) ***SPIRAEA* PLANT NAMED ‘ZELDA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Spiraea fritschiana*×*Spiraea japonica*
Varietal Denomination: **Zelda**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./226
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Spiraea* plant named ‘Zelda’,
characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading
and mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely
branching habit; developing leaves that are orange red in
color and become yellow green in color with development;
numerous dark pink-colored flowers; and good garden per-
formance.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Spiraea fritschiana*×*Spiraea*
japonica.

Cultivar denomination: ‘ZELDA’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Spiraea* plant, botanically known as *Spiraea fritschiana*×
Spiraea japonica and hereinafter referred to by the name
‘Zelda’.

The new *Spiraea* plant is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Grand Haven, Mich.
The objective of the breeding program is to develop new
compact and mounding *Spiraea* cultivars with attractive foli-
age and flowers.

The new *Spiraea* plant originated from an open-pollination
in 2003 of *Spiraea fritschiana* ‘Wilma’, disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 15,397, as the female, or seed, parent with an
unknown selection of *Spiraea japonica*, as the male, or pol-
len, parent. The new *Spiraea* plant was discovered and
selected by the Inventor in 2005 as a single flowering plant
within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a con-
trolled environment in Grand Haven, Mich.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Spiraea* plant by soft-
wood cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Grand Haven, Mich. since the summer of 2005 has shown that
the unique features of this new *Spiraea* plant are stable and
reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual
reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Spiraea* have not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary

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somewhat with variations in environment and cultural prac-
tices such as temperature and light intensity without, how-
ever, any variance in genotype.

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

1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding
plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Developing leaves that are orange red in color and
become yellow green in color with development.
5. Numerous dark pink-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Spiraea* can be compared to plants of the
female parent, ‘Wilma’. Plants of the new *Spiraea* differ from
plants of ‘Wilma’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spiraea* and ‘Wilma’ differ in leaf color
as plants of ‘Wilma’ have green-colored developing and
fully expanded leaves.
2. Plants of the new *Spiraea* have darker pink-colored
flowers than plants of ‘Wilma’.

Plants of the new *Spiraea* can be compared to plants of an
unnamed selection of *Spiraea japonica*. Plants of the new
Spiraea differ from plants of the unnamed selection in the
following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spiraea* are larger than plants of the
unnamed selection.

2. Plants of the new *Spiraea* and the unnamed selection differ in developing leaf color as plants of the unnamed selection have red-colored developing leaves.

3. Plants of the new *Spiraea* have larger flowers than plants of the unnamed selection.

Plants of the new *Spiraea* can be compared to plants of the *Spiraea japonica* 'Gold Flame', not patented. Plants of the new *Spiraea* differ from plants of 'Gold Flame' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spiraea* are not as compact as plants of 'Gold Flame'.
2. Plants of the new *Spiraea* and 'Gold Flame' differ in developing leaf color and plants of 'Gold Flame' have red-colored developing leaves.
3. Plants of the new *Spiraea* have larger flowers than plants of 'Gold Flame'.
4. Plants of the new *Spiraea* and 'Gold Flame' differ in flower color as plants of 'Gold Flame' have darker pink-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Spiraea* plant, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably 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 *Spiraea* plant.

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

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical developing and fully expanded leaves of 'Zelda'.

The photograph on the third sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence and leaves of 'Zelda'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants of the new *Spiraea* grown in three-gallon containers in an outdoor nursery in Grand Haven, Mich. during the spring and summer under conditions which closely approximate commercial production. Plants were three years old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the 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: *Spiraea fritschiana* × *Spiraea japonica* 'Zelda'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Spiraea fritschiana* 'Wilma', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,397.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Spiraea japonica*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By softwood cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 20 days at 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three months at 25° C.

Root description.—Fine to thick, fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial shrub; compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit with about 82 primary lateral branches; pinching (removal of terminal apices) will enhance lateral branch development.

Plant height.—About 65 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 70 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 25 cm.

Diameter.—About 1.5 mm.

Internode length.—About 2 cm.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous.

Color, developing.—Close to 176A.

Color, developed.—Close to 145A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 5 cm.

Width.—About 3 cm.

Shape.—Ovate to elliptical.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Serrulate to doubly serrate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Slightly pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 179B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 179B to 179C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 153C; venation, close to 177B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 146D; venation, close to 181A.

Petiole.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous.

Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C.

Flower description:

Flower appearance/arrangement.—Single rotate flowers arranged in compound corymbs; freely flowering habit with usually about 200 flowers per inflorescence; flowers face upright to outwardly.

Natural flowering season.—Continuous flowering from late spring through the summer in Grand Haven, Mich.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about three to four weeks on the plant; flowers persistent.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Inflorescence height.—About 3.5 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 7.5 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 4.5 mm.

Flower length (height).—About 5 mm.

Flower bud.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Globose. Color: Close to 66A.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Single whorl of five. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Oblong. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; silky. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 66C. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 66D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Single whorl of five. Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Subulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 186A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 55A. Fully

opened, upper surface: Close to 145A. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 54A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect to about 20° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 5 Close to 146D.

Pedicels.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: About 30° to 45° from peduncle axis. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 10 Close to 146D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: About 18. Anther shape: Globose. Anther length: About 0.25 mm. Anther color: Close to 64A. Amount of pollen: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 8D. Gynoecium: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm. Style length: About 0.75 mm. Style

color: Close to 60B. Stigma appearance: Globose. Stigma color: Close to 60B. Ovary color: Close to 182C.

Seeds.—Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Color: Close to 161C.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Spiraea* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about −29° C. to about 37° C.

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

It is claimed:

15 1. A new and distinct *Spiraea* plant named 'Zelda' as illustrated and described.

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