



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

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(54) **RHODODENDRON PLANT NAMED ‘HORT01’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Rhododendron simsii***
Varietal Denomination: **HORT01**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Rhododendron* plant named ‘Hort01’ that is
characterized by dark red double flowers with a long life of
approximately 30 days, no bracts and a low level of leaf drop.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii*.
Variety denomination ‘HORT01’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Rhododendron* plant botanically known as *Rhododendron*
simsii and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘Hort01’.

The new cultivar is the product of a breeding program
conducted by the inventor in a cultivated area of Kruisho-
utem, Belgium. The objective of the breeding program is to
develop new *Rhododendron* cultivars that have long lasting
flowers and bright green leaves.

‘Hort01’ is a hybrid that originated from the hybridization
of the female or seed parent a proprietary selection of *Rhodo-*
dendron simsii identified as ‘Ambrosiana’ (not patented) and
the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhodo-*
dendron simsii identified as ‘92138’ (not patented). The
crossing was conducted in the Spring of 1998. The cultivar
‘Hort01’ was selected by the inventor in March of 2000 as a
single plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a green-
house environment of Kruishoutem, Belgium.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘Hort01’ by cut-
tings was first performed in November of 2000 in Kruisho-
utem, Belgium. Since that time, under careful observation,
the unique characteristics of the new cultivar have been uni-
form, stable and reproduced true to type in successive gen-
erations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics
of the new *Rhododendron* cultivar ‘Hort01’. These traits in
combination distinguish ‘Hort01’ as a new and distinct culti-
var.

1. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort01’ exhibits dark red flowers.
2. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort01’ exhibits an absence of bracts.
3. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort01’ exhibits a low level of leaf drop.
4. *Rhododendron* ‘Hort01’ exhibits long lasting flowers.

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The closest comparison varieties are *Rhododendron*
‘Friedhelm Scherrer’ (not patented) and ‘Glazer 10’ (not pat-
ented).

‘Hort01’ is different from ‘Friedhelm Sherrer’ in having
full double flowers, no bracts and less leaf drop. The growth
habit is more spreading. The leaves of ‘Hort01’ are lighter in
color. ‘Hort01’ flowers later than ‘Friedhelm Scherrer’.

In comparison to the female or seed parent ‘Ambrosiana’,
‘Hort01’ differs in having darker red flowers and a later flow-
ering period. In comparison to the male or pollen parent
‘92138’, ‘Hort01’ differs in having a later flowering period
and a more compact habit.

‘Hort01’ is different than ‘Glazer 10’ in having full double
flowers, no bracts and less leaf drop. The growth habit is more
spreading. ‘Hort01’ flowers later than ‘Glazer 10’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photograph illustrates the distinguish-
ing traits of *Rhododendron* ‘Hort01’. The plant in the photo-
graph shows an overall view of a 24 month old plant. The
photograph was taken using conventional techniques and
although colors may appear different from actual colors due
to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by conven-
tional photographic techniques.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Rhodo-*
dendron cultivar named ‘Hort01’. Data was collected in
Kruishoutem, Belgium from 24 month old greenhouse grown
plants in 1.0 liter containers. The time of year was Spring and
the average temperature was 22° Centigrade during the day
and 18° Centigrade at night. The light level was 5000 Klux
and there were no photoperiodic treatments. Color determi-
nations are in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Soci-
ety Colour Chart 2001 edition, except where general color
terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The grow-
ing requirements are similar to the species. ‘Hort01’ has not
been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic dif-

ferences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron simsii* 'Hort01'.

Use: Ornamental Perennial Shrub.

Parentage: 'Hort01' is a hybrid of the female or seed parent *Rhododendron simsii* 'Ambrosiana' and the male or pollen parent a proprietary selection of *Rhododendron simsii* identified as '92138' (not patented).

Vigor: Moderately strong

Growth rate: Approximately 8 cm. in height and 15 cm. in width per year.

Growth habit: Broadly spreading, densely branched.

Plant shape: Flattened globose.

Suitable container size: 1.0 liter container.

Height: Average 22 cm. in height.

Width: Average 40 cm. in width.

Hardiness: 0° to 40° C.

Propagation: Cuttings.

Time to initiate roots: Approximately 30 days to produce roots on an initial cutting.

Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner: Approximately 60 days.

Root system: Fine and fibrous.

Stem:

Branching habit.—Freely branching.

Average number of lateral branches.—3.

Pinching.—Yes.

Lateral branch diameter.—3 mm. in diameter.

Lateral branch length.—11 cm. in length.

Lateral branch strength.—Moderately weak.

Stem color.—185A.

Pubescence.—Dense, short.

Internode length.—8 mm. between nodes.

Shape.—Round.

Surface.—Dull.

Stem strength.—Moderately weak.

Foliage:

Texture.—Dull.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate, clustered towards the top of the stems.

Compound or single.—Single.

Quantity of leaves per lateral branch.—22.

Leaf shape.—Elliptic.

Leaf apex.—Acute.

Leaf base.—Acute.

Leaf length.—3.6 cm. in length.

Leaf width.—1.5 cm. in width.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Vein pattern.—Pinnate.

Young leaf color (upper surface).—137C.

Young leaf color (lower surface).—138B.

Mature leaf color (upper surface).—138B.

Mature leaf color (lower surface).—136B.

Vein color (lower surface).—143C.

Vein color (upper surface).—143B.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Petiole dimensions.—8 mm. in length, slightly flattened 2 mm. in width, 1 mm. in height.

Petiole color.—145A.

Durability of foliage to stress.—Good.

Flower:

Flower arrangement.—Terminal clusters.

Inflorescence type.—Open funnel-shaped.

Inflorescence dimensions.—7.5 cm. in diameter and 4 cm. in height.

Flowering habit.—Continuously once a year.

Quantity of flowers per lateral stem.—Approximately 3.

Quantity of flower buds per lateral stem.—Approximately 1 to 5.

Quantity of flowers and buds per plant.—Approximately 125.

Flowering season.—February to April.

Time to flower or response time.—2 to 4 weeks depending on temperature.

Rate of flower opening.—After the first flower of a cluster has opened, all flowers of that cluster will open in approximately 14 days.

Fragrance.—None.

Self-cleaning or persistent.—Persistent.

Flower bud length.—9 mm. in length.

Flower bud diameter.—7 mm. in diameter.

Flower bud shape.—Ovate.

Rate of bud opening.—10 days.

Flower bud color.—Areas of 143C and 185A.

Flower aspect.—Upright.

Flower shape.—Funnelform.

Flower dimensions.—7.5 cm. in diameter and 4 cm. in height.

Flower longevity.—Lasts approximately 30 days on plant.

Petal appearance.—Dull, slight velvety.

Petal texture.—Glabrous.

Petal arrangement.—Funnelform, rosette.

Number of petals.—Approximately five in number.

Petals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Petal shape.—Obovate.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Petal apex.—Rounded.

Petal dimensions.—2.1 cm. in length and 1.8 cm. in width.

Petal color when opening (upper side).—53C.

Petal color when opening (under side).—53C.

Petal color when fully opened (upper side).—53C.

Petal color when fully opened (under side).—53C.

Petal color fading to.—Not fading.

Calyx:

Calyx shape.—Rounded.

Sepals:

Sepal appearance.—Dull, pubescent.

Number of sepals.—Five in number.

Sepals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Sepal shape.—Ovate.

Sepal apex.—Acute.

Sepal margin.—Entire.

Sepal color.—53C (upper and lower surfaces).

Sepal dimensions.—2 mm. in length and 2 mm. in width.

Bracts: Absent.

Reproduction organs:

Stamen number.—1.

Anther shape.—Fused to petals.

Pistil number.—1 in number.

Pistil dimensions.—2.0 cm. in length.

Stigma shape.—Club shaped.

Stigma color.—155C.

Style length.—1.7 cm.

Seed: Seed production has not been observed to date.

Disease and pest resistance: Plants of the new *Rhododendron* have not been observed for disease or pest resistance.

The invention claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Rhododendron* plant named 'Hort01' as described and illustrated.

