

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

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(54) **GARDENIA JASMINOIDES PLANT NAMED**
'LEEONE'

(50) Latin Name: *Gardenia jasminoides*
Varietal Denomination: **Leeone**

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

A new and distinct variety of *Gardenia jasminoides* plant
named 'Leeone', characterized by its dense, upright, globose
growth habit, dark green foliage color, and abundance of
fragrant, double white flowers is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus species: *Gardenia jasminoides*.
Varietal denomination: 'Leeone'.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of the genus *Gardenia* and a member of the Rubiaceae family.
This new *Gardenia* variety, hereinafter referred to as
'Leeone', was discovered by Robert Edward Lee in October,
2000. 'Leeone' is characterized by its dense, upright, globose
growth habit, dark green foliage color, and abundance of
fragrant, double white flowers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Leeone' was found as an openly pollinated seedling in a
group of *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Daisy' (unpatented) seedling
plants being grown in Independence, La. The value of this
new cultivar lies in its dense, upright, globose growth habit,
dark green foliage color, and abundance of fragrant, double,
white flowers. 'Leeone' has retained many of the outstanding
attributes of its parent variety, in particular its tolerance of
heat and disease, which makes it adaptable to culture in most
of the Sunbelt States. As with the parent variety, the plant of
this invention may be advantageously employed as a speci-
men appointment, in either formal or informal groupings, and
is quite attractive in mass plantings. 'Leeone' serves well in
foundation plantings and is adaptable for culture as a potted
plant. 'Leeone' is responsive to pruning and training and may
be maintained without an excessive amount of care. This
plant is easy to care for and maintain in size due to its heavy
branching and dense canopy. Its natural propensity to remain
small to maturity makes it valuable for landscape uses in
smaller home gardens which require plants that do not out-
grow their intended mature dimensions.

Asexual propagation of the new plant by cuttings has been
under Mr. Lee's direction and control in Independence, La.
The new plant retains its distinctive characteristics and repro-
duces true to type in successive generations of asexual repro-
duction. The plant cannot be reproduced true from seed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing
characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal
horticultural practices in Independence, La.

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1. Dense, upright, and globose in nature.
2. Attractive dark green foliage.
3. The flowers are double, white, fragrant, and profuse.
4. Fast growth rate under normal fertilization and moisture
conditions.
5. Hardy to Zone 7.
6. Tolerates full sun to part shade.
7. Heat tolerant.
8. Adaptable to a wide range of soil types.
9. Easily propagated with semi-hardwood cuttings in late
spring through the summer.
10. Requires little pruning but is tolerant if pruning is
needed.
11. Relatively pest resistant.
12. Good specimen plant.
13. Good foundation plant.
14. Very desirable in planters.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new *Gardenia jasminoides* cultivar is illustrated by
the accompanying photographic prints in which:

FIG. 1 is a photograph of a close-up showing the flower,
buds, foliage and stem color, as well as flower size and form
of the new *Gardenia jasminoides* cultivar of the present
invention.

FIG. 2 is a photograph showing the dense, upright, and
globose growth habit of a three gallon plant of the new *Gar-
denia jasminoides* cultivar of the present invention.

The colors shown are as true as is reasonably possible to
obtain by conventional photographic procedures. Colors in
the photographs may appear different than actual colors due
to light reflectance. The colors of the various plant parts are
defined with reference to The Royal Horticultural Society
Colour Chart. Description of colors in ordinary terms are
presented where appropriate for clarity in meaning.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new variety of
Gardenia based on observations made of two year old plants

grown in one to three gallon containers in commercial production practices, in greenhouses, and in established landscape plantings in Independence, La. and including a comparison with *Gardenia jasminoides* ‘Daisy’ (unpatented) and *Gardenia jasminoides* ‘August Beauty’ (unpatented).

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE 1

Characteristic	<i>Gardenia j.</i> ‘Leeone’	<i>Gardenia j.</i> ‘Daisy’	<i>Gardenia j.</i> ‘August Beauty’
Height (Mature)	3-4' (0.9-1.2 m)	3-3 1/2' (0.9-1.05 m)	4-6' (1.2-1.8 m)
Width (Mature)	2 1/2-3' (0.75-0.9 m)	3-3 1/2' (0.9-1.05 m)	4-6' (1.2-1.8 m)
Leaf Length	1 1/2-2 3/4" (3.8-7 cm)	1 1/4-2 1/4" (3.1-5.7 cm)	1 3/8-3" (4.1-7.5 cm)
Leaf Width	5/8-1 1/8" (1.6-2.9 cm)	5/8-1 3/16" (1.6-1.9 cm)	3/4-1 1/4" (1.9-3.1 cm)
Leaf Shape	Elliptic-lanceolate	Ovate-rounded	Ovate
Growth Habit	Dense, Upright, Globose	Dense, Globose	Dense, Globose
Flower Form	Double	Single	Double
Bloom Period	May-November	May-July	May-October

Gardenia jasminoides ‘Daisy’ and *Gardenia jasminoides* ‘August Beauty’ are well known in the industry and are comparable to ‘Leeone’ in that all have green foliage color and white fragrant blooms. However, there are many differences. The growth habit of ‘Leeone’ is dense, upright and globose to 4’ (1.2 m) tall compared to ‘August Beauty’ which is a much taller grower with a more globose habit. The flower form of ‘Leeone’ is double compared to ‘Daisy’, the parent variety, which is single. The foliage of ‘Leeone’ is slightly larger than the parent variety but smaller than ‘August Beauty’.

Classification:

Botanical: *Gardenia jasminoides* ‘Leeone’

Parentage: Openly pollinated seedling of *Gardenia jasminoides* ‘Daisy’

Commercial: Broadleaf evergreen

Form: Dense, upright, and globose

Height: 3-4’ (0.9-1.2 m)

Width: 2 1/2-3’ (0.75-0.9 m)

Growth Rate: Fast under normal fertilization and moisture conditions. Semi-hardwood cuttings taken in late spring and through the summer produce rooted cuttings in three to four months in Independence, La. Root development is vigorous and finely branched. In a period of four years from a rooted cutting, the plant reaches a height of 2 feet (0.6 m) and a spread of 1 1/2 feet (0.45 m) under normal growing conditions in Independence, La. The plant normally grows at the rate of about 8 inches (20 cm) or more per year and reaches a height of 4 feet (1.2 m) and a spread of 3 feet (0.9 m) at maturity while maintaining a dense habit due to the abundant branch development.

Foliage: Opposite, occasionally in whorls of three, simple, evergreen, glabrous, elliptic to lanceolate and varying in size from 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) to 2 3/4" (6.9 cm) long and 5/8" (1.6 cm) to 1 1/8" (2.9 cm) wide. The petioles are 1/16" (0.2 cm) to 1/8" (0.3 cm) long, 1/32" (0.08 cm) in diameter and Yellow-Green Group 144A. The venation pattern is pinnate. The base of the leaf is cuneate, the margin entire, and the apex acute to short acuminate. The upper surface of the immature leaf is Green Group 137A and the underside is Green Group 138B. Immature midribs and veins are Yellow-

Green Group 144B top and bottom and mature to Yellow-Green Group 144A. The upper surface of the mature leaf is Green Group 139A and the underside is Green Group 138A. These mature leaf colors are persistent throughout the winter.

In 2007, the date of initial spring growth was March 20, in Independence, La. After the initial spring flush there was almost continuous growth until fall, ending October 28, also in Independence, La. When grown in full sun, the internode length of this plant is 1 3/4" (4.4 cm) to 2 1/2" (6.3 cm). When grown in light shade the internode length is 2 1/8" (5.4 cm) to 2 3/4" (6.9 cm). As would be expected, a plant grown in the shade results in a taller, less dense plant with larger leaves.

Stems: The young stems are Yellow-Green Group 144A and tomentulose. As the stems mature they become Yellow-Green Group 146B and by the second growing season they become scaly and Brown Group 200C. The pith is solid and uniform. Young and older stems are densely branched.

Buds: Tubular, bulging at mid-length and tapered to a rounded point, glabrous, 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) to 1 3/4" (4.4 cm) long by 7/16" (1.1 cm) to 9/16" (1.4 cm) wide and Yellow-Green Group 144B. The pedicel is 1/2" (1.3 cm) to 5/8" (1.6 cm) long, lightly pubescent and Yellow-Green Group 144A. The calyx is 1 1/8" (2.9 cm) to 1 1/4" (3.1 cm) long and 5/8" (1.6 cm) to 3/4" (1.9 cm) in diameter, lightly pubescent and Yellow-Green Group 144A. There are 4 to 6 sepals which are Yellow-Green Group 144A, lightly pubescent, linear and joined at the base to form a cup.

Flowers: Perfect, double, glabrous, salverform, 2 1/2" (6.3 cm) to 3" (7.5 cm) in diameter by 1 1/2" (3.8 cm) to 2" (5.0 cm) in depth, borne on current season’s growth, fragrant; they last on the plant in the garden five to six days. Flower color is White Group 155D fading to Yellow Group 10D. These color designations are for both the upper surface and the under surface. There are six true petals which are fused at the base, elliptic to obovate, and have wavy margins. These true petals extend radially, are 3/4" (1.9 cm) to 1 1/4" (3.1 cm) long, 5/8" (1.6 cm) to 1 1/8" (2.9 cm) wide, have rounded apexes and entire margins. There are 16-18 petaloids 1/2" (1.3 cm) to 1" (2.5 cm) long and 3/8" (0.9 cm) to 7/8" (2.2 cm) wide which are held more erect and become progressively smaller toward the center producing the double flower. There are six stamens. The anthers are 1/4" (0.6 cm) to 3/8" (0.9 cm) long by 1/16" (0.2 cm) wide and Grey-Brown Group 199B. There is no filament structure. Pollen matures to Yellow Group 2D and is produced in small amounts. The pistil is single, non-petaloid, 9/16" (1.4 cm) to 1" (2.5 cm) long and Greyed-Yellow Group 160A. The stigma is 1/4" (0.6 cm) to 3/8" (0.9 cm) long, 1/8" (0.3 cm) to 3/16" (0.5 cm) wide in the form of 2-5 enlarged lobes which separate with advanced maturity and are Yellow Group 8C. The style is 1/8" (0.3 cm) to 3/8" (0.9 cm) long, 1/32" (0.08 cm) to 1/16" (0.2 cm) wide and Yellow Group 8D. The ovary is inferior, ellipsoid, 3/16" (0.5 cm) to 1/4" (0.6 cm) long, 1/8" (0.3 cm) to 3/16" (0.5 cm) wide and Yellow-Green Group 144D.

Culture: Grows well in a wide range of conditions and tolerates sun to part shade. Prefers a moist, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Responds well to mulching and medium applications of fertilizer; prefers pH 5 to 5.5. Very little pruning is needed. Adaptable to containers and above ground planters. Makes a good foundation plant hedge with excellent foliage and flower contrast. Ideal for coastal regions and warmer parts of the Piedmont. Cold hardiness and drought resistance are comparable to the

parent variety. Propagated with semi-hardwood cuttings in late spring through the summer.

Disease and Insect Resistance: Resistance to disease and insects common to plants of *Gardenia* has not been observed.

The exemplary embodiments herein disclosed are not intended to be exhaustive or to unnecessarily limit the scope of the invention. The exemplary embodiments were chosen

and described in order to explain the present invention so that others skilled in the art may practice the invention.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Gardenia jasminoides* plant named ‘Leeone’ as illustrated and described herein.

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FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2