



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Adam, Jr.

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(54) **TIARELLA PLANT NAMED ‘LEHIGH’**

(50) Latin Name: *Tiarella cordifolia*
Varietal Denomination: **Lehigh**

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(US)

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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./486**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./486
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Tiarella cordifolia* plant characterized by
its lobed foliage with purple markings and white blooms on a
clump forming plant that produces many runners.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical/commercial classification: *Tiarella cordifolia*/
Tiarella Plant.

Varietal denomination:—‘Lehigh’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new *Tiarella cordifolia* was selected during 2007 as a
seedling from the garden at the Nursery of Sinclair A. Adam
Jr. at Coatesville, Pa., U.S.A. The exact parentage of the new
variety is unknown. It resulted from seedlings grown from
open-pollinated plants of *Tiarella cordifolia*, and *Tiarella*
cordifolia var. *collina*. Several hundred plants are grown for
seed production, and some or all of these plants are likely
included in the parentage of the new variety of the present
invention.

The new variety has been carefully preserved and studied
since the time of its discovery. Had such new variety not been
discovered and preserved, it would have been lost to mankind.

It was found that the new *Tiarella cordifolia*, variety of the
present invention exhibits the following combination of char-
acteristics: (a) exhibits a compact mounding clump growth
habit with substantial runners, (b) forms attractive white
flowers on branched flower stalks, (c) forms lobed ovate green
leaves having a matte finish during the summer that bear
maroon markings along the leaf veins maroon and in the
center, and this pigment expands in the late summer. In fall the
leaves turn darker red of variable intensity during the fall, and
(d) is particularly well suited for growing as a distinctive
ornamental ground cover, creating a dense stand in a season.

The new variety of the present invention can be readily
distinguished from other previously known varieties of the
species in view of the distinctive combination of characteris-
tics discussed herein. The red, and green spring, summer, and
fall color is considered to be particularly noteworthy.

The new variety ‘Lehigh’ can be compared to ‘Elizabeth
Oliver’ (not patented), which differs from ‘Lehigh’ in having
shorter runners, light pink flowers, and foliage that is more
heavily suffused with maroon. ‘Lehigh’ can also be compared
to cultivars from the same breeding program, ‘Octoraro’ (U.S.
patent application Ser. No. 12/589,995), ‘Delaware’ (U.S.
patent application Ser. No. 12/589,997), and ‘Susquehanna’

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(U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/589,996). ‘Octoraro’
differs from ‘Lehigh’ in having larger white flowers, foliage
that in spring has maroon markings that are localized prima-
rily on the veins, and in having foliage that turns golden
yellow with red veins in the fall. ‘Delaware’ differs from
‘Lehigh’ in having more red colored runners. ‘Susquehanna’
differs from ‘Lehigh’ in having foliage that turns dark red
with green margins in fall.

The new variety well meets the needs of the horticultural
industry and expands the choices of ornamental ground cov-
ers which fills in as a stand well. It performs well wherever a
ground cover is desired, and is particularly well suited for use
as a border planting, use in shaded areas, and for ecology and
restoration casting open pollinated seedlings, and asexual
runners.

The runners (stolons) and flower stems of clumps have
been used to asexually propagate the new variety at Delhi,
N.Y. (laboratory), and Coatesville, (breeder and Nursery) Pa.,
U.S.A. It has been found that the distinctive combination of
characteristics of the new variety is firmly fixed and is reliably
transmitted to succeeding generations. During observations
to date, the new variety has been found to be readily amenable
to such propagation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1: shows a two-year-old plant in the nursery in
Coatesville, Pa. in May.

FIG. 2: shows the maturity of the blooms on a two-year-old
plant in Coatesville, Pa. in May.

FIG. 3: shows the maturity of the leaves on a two-year-old
plant in Coatesville, Pa. in May.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new variety
that was obtained while observing plants being grown out-
doors, and in the greenhouse during 2007-2008 at Coates-
ville, Pa., U.S.A. The plants were approximately two years of
age and were being grown on their own roots. The chart used
in the identification of color is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of

The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England. More common color terms are to be accorded their ordinary dictionary significance.

Botanical classification: *Tiarella cordifolia*—'Lehigh'.

Plant:

Habit.—Compact mounding clump, several runners.

Type.—Evergreen.

Height.—Approximately 11 to 14 cm without blooms, and approximately 15 to 20 cm with blooms.

Width.—Approximately 30 cm.

Stolons.—Pubescent surface, with hairs <1 mm in length, internode length about 2 cm, and Greyed Purple Group 186C in color.

Foliage:

Type.—Simple.

Shape.—Ovate to broadly ovate, palmately five-lobed with an elongated central lobe with 2 pronounced crenate sub lobes, and irregularly crenate margins on all lobes having mucronate teeth. Each tooth has a small point, which is relatively firm with a leaf vein extending to the end of the tip.

Length.—Approximately 8.5 to 10.5 cm.

Width.—Approximately 7.5 to 8.5 cm.

Margins.—Incised with dentation.

Apex.—The lobes are broadly obtuse to rounded and cuspidate.

Base.—Cordate.

Texture.—Upper surface; slightly rugose with a matte finish and pubescent with hairs about 2 mm in length and 3 mm apart, lower surface; glabrous with hairs along veins only <1 mm in length.

Arrangement.—Basal clump, with branched runners 8 to 12 in number, usually 18 to 26 cm in length.

Venation.—Palmately reticulate.

Young Foliage: On the upper surface Yellow-Green Group 144A to 144B, and Greyed-Purple Group 187A at the center and along the main vein, and on the lower surface Yellow-Green Group 146B to 146C.

Adult Foliage: On the upper surface Green Group 137B to 137D, and Brown Group 200B at the center and along the main vein, and on the lower surface Yellow-Green Group 146B to Greyed-Green Group 191A.

Fall Foliage: Both the ventral leaf surface (upper) and the dorsal leaf surface (lower) are characterized by areas of light red and darker reddish-purple that are near and through the following colors: Red Group 49D and Red-Purple Group 62D in the lighter areas to Red Group 53D and Greyed-Purple Group 186B in the mid-tones to Greyed-Purple Group 187A and 187B in the darker areas. The dorsal leaf surface exhibits a matte appearance when

compared to the glossier appearance of the ventral leaf surface that commonly is increased in expression in the autumn foliage.

Petiole.—The length commonly varies from approximately 8 to 11 cm, and the diameter commonly is approximately 2 mm, surface is pubescent with hairs <1 mm in length, color is Green Group 144C on distal portion and Greyed-Purple Group 186A on proximal portion.

Inflorescence:

Type.—Raceme and perfect (bisexual).

Number.—Approximately 30 to 50 blooms per raceme.

Bearing.—On a branched stalk commonly having a height of approximately 15 to 20 cm, with up to 2-3 short side branches. Side branches are 2-6 cm in length, bearing 5 to 10 blooms.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—About 3 weeks.

Flower buds.—Ellipsoid in shape, perigynous, 2 to 3 mm in depth and 2 mm in diameter, Greyed-White Group 156B in color.

Calyx.—Five-lobed, about 6 mm in width, White Group NN155B in color.

Petals.—Five.

Petal shape.—Triangular.

Stamens.—Ten, about 5 mm in length. Anthers coral color Red group 37C.

Pistil.—One, about 5 mm in length.

Flower size.—Approximately 6 to 9 mm in width and depth on average per floret.

Color.—On the dorsal surface White Group 155B and on the ventral surface White Group 155A.

Fragrance.—Slight and sweet.

Pedicel.—Approximately 5 to 6 mm in length on average and White Group 155C in color.

Development:

Vegetation.—Clump-forming, with runners (stolons).

Blooming.—Abundantly when initially blooms during May/June and sporadically thereafter during the summer and fall.

Resistance to disease.—No susceptibility to diseases has been noted during observations to date.

Hardiness.—Has proven to grow well in U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zones No. 4 to 7.

Propensity to form fruit/seeds.—Approx. 0.10 grams per (1 year old) plant (about 350 seeds).

Plants of the new 'Lehigh' variety have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype expression may vary somewhat with changes in light intensity and duration, cultural practices, and other environmental conditions.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Tiarella* plant as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1

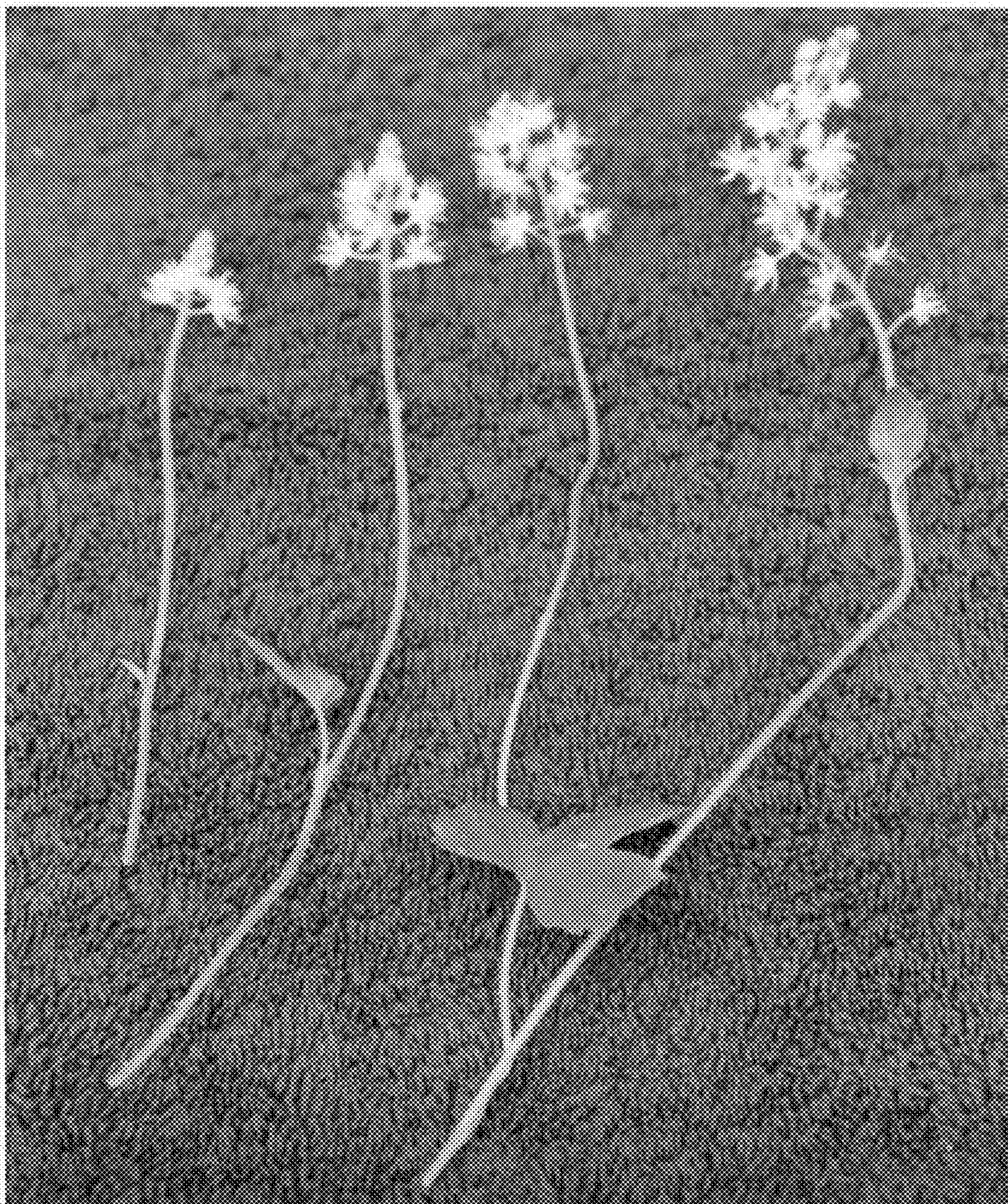


FIG. 2



FIG. 3