

US00PP22067P2

(12) United States Plant Patent Podaras

(45) Date of Patent:

(10) Patent No.:

US PP22,067 P2

Aug. 9, 2011

(54) BUDDLEJA PLANT NAMED 'PODARAS #11'

(50) Latin Name: Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia

Varietal Denomination: **Podaras** #11

(75) Inventor: **Peter Podaras**, Ithaca, NY (US)

(73) Assignee: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (US)

(*) 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.: 12/660,663

(22) Filed: Mar. 2, 2010

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

(52) U.S. Cl. Plt./242

Primary Examiner — Susan B McCormick Ewoldt (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — C. A. Whealy

(57) ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of *Buddleja* plant named 'Podaras #11', characterized by its compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; freely flowering habit; sterile light violet blue-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alterni-folia*.

Cultivar denomination: 'PODARAS #11'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Buddleja* plant, botanically known as *Buddleja davidii*× *Buddleja alternifolia* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Podaras #11'.

The new *Buddleja* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Ithaca, N.Y. The objective of the breeding program was to create new compact and sterile *Buddleja* plants with unique and attractive flower coloration.

The new *Buddleja* plant originated from an open-pollination on Mar. 15, 2005 in Ithaca, N.Y., of an unnamed selection of *Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia*, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Buddleja* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Ithaca, N.Y. in August, 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Buddleja* plant by cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in West Chicago, Ill. since February, 2008, has shown that the unique features of this new *Buddleja* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Buddleja* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Podaras #11'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Podaras 40' #11' as a new and distinct *Buddleja* plant:

- 1. Compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
- 2. Freely flowering habit.

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- 3. Sterile light violet blue-colored flowers.
- 4. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Buddleja* differ from plants of the female parent selection primarily in growth habit as plants of the new *Buddleja* are more compact and denser than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Buddleja* can be compared to plants of *Buddleja davidii* 'Petite Indigo', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Buddleja* and 'Petite Indigo' differed in the following characteristics:

- 1. Plants of the new *Buddleja* were more freely branching and denser than plants of 'Petite Indigo'.
- 2. Plants of the new *Buddleja* were more rounded than and not as spreading as plants of 'Petite Indigo'.
- 3. Plants of the new *Buddleja* were more freely flowering than plants of 'Petite Indigo'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Buddleja* 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 *Buddleja* plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Podaras #11' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Podaras #11'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Arroyo Grande, Calif. under commercial practice during the summer in 12.5-cm containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse with day temperatures averaging 21° C. and night temperatures averaging 7° C. Plants were pinched two times and were one year old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are

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made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia 'Podaras #11'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed selection of Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia, not patented. Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of Buddleja davidii×Buddleja alternifolia, not patented. 10 Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots plant, summer.—About two weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to initiate roots plant, winter.—About two to three 15 weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, winter.—About three to four weeks at temperatures of 18° C. to 24° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fine; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; moderately dense. Plant description:

Plant form/habit.—Deciduous perennial shrub; compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; 25 broad inverted triangle; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 42 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 35 cm by 50 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity: About eleven main branches per plant. Length: About 49 cm. Diameter: 30 About 6 mm. Internode length: About 4.5 cm to 5 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture, developing stems: Lanulose. Texture, mature stems: Smooth, glabrous. Color, developing: Close to 199B to 199C. Color, mature: Close to 195B.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 7.5 cm to 8 cm.

Width.—About 3 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical to oblanceolate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Crenulate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate, reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 191A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 192C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137C; venation, close to N137C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 195A; venation, close 50 to 194A.

Petiole.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Lanulose. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 195B.

Flower description:

Flower type/habit.—Single rotate and salverform flowers arranged in compound terminal and axillary panicles; flowers face upright and outward; panicles roughly conical in shape; freely flowering habit with about 132 flower buds and flowers developing per 60 inflorescence.

Fragrance.—Faint, sweet.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about three months after planting; flowering continuous from spring until frost in California.

Postproduction longevity.—Flowers last about three to four days on the plant; flowers persistent.

Flower buds.—Height: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Shape: Oblong. Color: Close to 91A.

Inflorescence height.—About 7.5 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 4.6 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 8 mm.

Flower depth.—About 1.3 cm.

Flower throat, diameter.—About 1 mm.

Flower tube, length.—About 1 cm.

Flower tube, diameter at base.—About 1.5 mm.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Typically four in a single whorl; petals fused into a narrow tube. Lobe length: About 3 mm. Lobe width: About 2.5 mm to 3 mm. Lobe shape: Roughly spatulate. Lobe apex: Rounded. Lobe margin: Erosulate, crinkled. Texture, upper and lower lobe surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, throat: Slightly pubescent. Texture, tube: Slightly pubescent. Color: Developing petals, upper surface: Close to 91B. Developing petals, lower surface: Close to 90D. Fully expanded petals, upper surface: Close to 91A; towards the throat, close to 91D; venation, close to 91A; color becoming closer to 91B with development. Fully expanded petals, lower surface: Close to 91A; venation, close to 91A. Throat: Close to 167C; venation, close to 167C. Tube: Close to N77D; venation, close to N77D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Typically four in a single whorl, fused towards the base; campanulate calyx. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 191A. Color, lower surface: Close to 194B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.5 cm to 2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Angle: Mostly erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Lanulose. Color: Close to 195A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 45° from peduncle axis. Strength: Strong. Texture: Lanulose. Color: Close to 195A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically four; filaments adnate to the corolla tube. Filament length: About 2 mm. Filament color: Close to 161C to 161D. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Close to NN155B. Pollen amount: None. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: Close to 145A. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: Close to 145C. Ovary color: Close to 145B.

Seed/fruit.—Flowers of plants of the new Buddleja are sterile and seed and fruit development have not been observed.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Buddleja* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 0° C. to about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Buddleja* plant named 'Podaras #11' as illustrated and described.



