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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED 'PER1139'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.**
Varietal Denomination: **PER1139**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named 'PER1139', characterized by its uniform, upright and mounded plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; dark green-colored leaves; early season flowering response; under natural season conditions, plants flower in about eight weeks in Southern California; large inflorescences with dark red-colored flower bracts; and good post-production longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.
Cultivar denomination: 'PER1139'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant, botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., and hereinafter referred to by the name 'PER1139'.

The new Poinsettia plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Encinitas, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new uniform Poinsettia plants having large inflorescences with red-colored flower bracts, early flowering habit and excellent post-production longevity.

The new Poinsettia plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in December, 2001 of a proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Wild. identified as code number X-29, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent, with *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. '490', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,825, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Poinsettia plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Encinitas. Calif. on Dec. 1, 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new Poinsettia plant by terminal vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Encinitas, Calif. since January, 2003, has shown that the unique features of this new Poinsettia plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new Poinsettia have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, daylength 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 'PER1139'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'PER1139' as a new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant:

1. Uniform, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Dark green-colored leaves.
5. Early season flowering response; under natural season conditions, plants flower in about eight weeks in Southern California.
6. Large inflorescences with dark red-colored flower bracts.
7. Good post-production longevity.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Encinitas, Calif., plants of the new Poinsettia differed from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new Poinsettia were darker green in color than leaves of plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flower bracts of plants of the new Poinsettia were darker red in color than flower bracts of plants of the female parent selection.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Encinitas, Calif., plants of the new Poinsettia differed from plants of the male parent, '490', primarily in time to flower as plants of the new Poinsettia flowered about five days later than plants of '490' under natural season conditions.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. 'Peterstar', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,259. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Encinitas, Calif., plants of the new Poinsettia differed from plants of 'Peterstar' in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new Poinsettia were darker green in color than leaves of plants of 'Peterstar'.
2. Flower bracts of plants of the new Poinsettia were darker red in color than flower bracts of plants of 'Peterstar'.

3. Plants of the new Poinsettia flowered about two days earlier than plants of 'Peterstar' under natural season conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new Poinsettia plant. These photographs show 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 Poinsettia plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of PER1139' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'PER1139'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description describe plants grown in during the autumn and early winter in 15-cm containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse in Encinitas, Calif. and under natural season conditions and cultural practices which approximate those generally used in commercial Poinsettia production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 24° C., night averaged 19° C. and light levels were about 4,000 foot-candles. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Plants were pinched one time and were 17 weeks old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. 'PER1139'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number X-29, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. '490', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,825.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About seven to ten days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About four weeks at 21° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Plant description:

Plant habit and form.—Uniform, upright and mounded plant habit; narrow inverted triangle; large inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 32 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 44 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity: Freely branching habit, about eight lateral branches develop after pinching. Length: About 19 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: About 2.2 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 146A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Aspect: Flat. Length: About 12 cm. Width: About 8.6 cm. Shape: Elliptical with shallow lobes. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire; shallow lobing. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 148B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to N138B; venation, close to 148B. Petiole: Length: About 7 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 183A. Color, lower surface: Close to 183C.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence type and habit.—Inflorescences are compound corymbs of cyathia with colored flower bracts subtending the cyathia; inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane.

Quantity of inflorescence.—One inflorescence develops per lateral branch.

Fragrance.—Not detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants typically flower during the autumn and winter in Southern California; inflorescence initiation and development can also be induced under artificial long nyctoperiod/short photoperiod conditions; early season flowering habit, plants flower about eight weeks when grown under natural season conditions in Southern California.

Post-production longevity.—Good post-production longevity; plants of the new Poinsettia maintain good substance and flower bract color for about four weeks under interior conditions; inflorescences persistent.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 35 cm. Height (depth): About 8 cm.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 26. Length, largest bracts: About 15.6 cm. Width, largest bracts: About 10.6 cm. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Aspect: Horizontal and eventually drooping with development. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Color: Developing or transitional bracts, upper surface: Close to 46A. Developing or transitional bracts, lower surface: Close to 180A. Fully expanded bracts, upper surface: Close to 45A; venation, close to 45A; color does not fade with development. Fully expanded bracts, lower surface: Close to 53C; venation, close to 53C; color does not fade with development. Bract petiole: Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 183A.

Cyathia.—Quantity per corymb: About twelve. Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 6 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color, immature and mature: Close to 146D. Nectaries: Quantity per cyathium: One. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Elliptical. Color: Close to 17C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 145A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per cyathium: About eight to ten. Filament length: About 3 mm. Filament color: Close to 60A. Anther shape: Oval; bi-lobed. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 187B. Amount of pollen: Scarce. Pol-

len color: Close to 8A. Pistils: Plants of the new Poinsettia do not develop pistils. Seed/fruit: Seed and fruit production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Poinsettia have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Poinsettias.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Poinsettia have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 15.5° C. to about 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Poinsettia plant named 'PER1139' as illustrated and described.

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