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Clifford et al.

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(54) **DIANTHUS PLANT NAMED ‘HOPE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Dianthus hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Hope**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Dianthus hybrida*, ‘Hope’, characterized by
its clean, mounded, blue foliage, and its single flowers that are
bright fuchsia in color.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Dianthus hybrida*.
Variety denomination: ‘Hope’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Dianthus* plant, botanically of hybrid origin and known as
Dianthus ‘Hope’ and will be referred to hereinafter by its
cultivar name, ‘Hope’. The new cultivar represents a new
cultivar of cheddar pinks, an herbaceous perennial grown for
landscape use.

‘Hope’ was discovered by the Inventors in a container in a
nursery in Lewisburg, Tenn. in April of 2007. The new culti-
var arose as a chance seedling in a quart container amongst a
block of containers of ‘Firewitch’ (not patented) and ‘Frosty
Fire’. Although the parentage is unknown, ‘Firewitch’ and
‘Frosty Fire’ are likely parents due to the characteristics of the
new cultivar and their proximity.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by one of the Inventors using stem cuttings in June of
2007 in Paw Paw, Mich. Using stem cutting and in vitro
propagation, the characteristics of this cultivar have been
determined to be stable and are reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish ‘Hope’ as unique from
all other varieties of *Dianthus* known to the Inventors.

1. ‘Hope’ exhibits single flowers that are bright fuchsia in
color.

2. ‘Hope’ exhibits clean, mounded, blue foliage.

In comparison to its likely parent plant, ‘Fire Witch’,
‘Hope’ differs in having cleaner, more blue foliage and flow-
ers that are bright fuchsia rather than pink and in blooming
later in the season. In comparison to its likely parent plant,
‘Frosty Fire’, ‘Hope’ has similar foliage, however ‘Frosty
Fire’ differs from ‘Hope’ in having double flowers that are
more red in color and in flowering later in the season. ‘Hope’
can also compared to the *Dianthus* cultivar ‘Devon Xera’
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,895). ‘Hope’ has similar foliage to

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‘Devon Xera’, however ‘Devon Xera’ differs from ‘Hope’ in
having flowers that are crimson red in color with a darker red
center eye and in producing less flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance and distinct characteristics of the new *Dian-*
thus. The photographs in the figures were taken of a plant
about six months in age as grown in a garden for two months
from a 1-liter container.

FIG. 1 provides a view of the plant habit of ‘Hope’ in bloom
and

FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of the flowers of ‘Hope’.

The 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 *Dianthus*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of plants about six
months in age as grown in a garden in Michigan for two
months from a 1-liter container. The phenotype of the new
cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic,
and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all
possible environmental conditions. The color determination
is in accordance with The 2007 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The
Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where
general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are
used.

General description:

Blooming period.—Blooms for about 3 weeks in mid
spring in Michigan.

Plant habit.—Herbaceous perennial, evergreen, tightly
mounded foliage with upright flower scapes.

Height and spread.—An average of 15 cm in height and
about 20 cm in width.

Hardiness.—At least in U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 9.

Diseases and pests.—Has been observed to be more
resistant to downy mildew in comparison to other
cultivars of *Dianthus* grown by the Inventors.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Growth and propagation:

Propagation.—Stem cuttings and tissue culture (preferred).

Growth rate.—Vigorous.

Stem description:

Stem strength.—Strong and held upright.

Shape.—Oval, solid swollen at nodes.

Stem color.—New growth; 137A with heavy glaucous coating of 189A to 189C, 145B in color near base, woody base (old growth); 165A.

Stem size.—Average of 1.2 mm in diameter and 8 cm in length (including peduncle).

Stem surface.—Glaucous.

Branching habit.—Numerous dense branches emerge in whorls from stout woody stems, about 50 lateral branches per plant.

Foliage description:

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf shape.—Linear.

Leaf base.—Blunt, clasping to stem.

Leaf apex.—Narrowly acute.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Leaf venation.—Linear, not conspicuous, color same as leaf color.

Leaf attachment.—Sessile, clasping.

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Leaf surface.—Glaucous.

Leaf color.—Newly emerged and mature upper and lower surface; 137A with heavy glaucous coating of 189B, basal clasping portion N144D.

Leaf size.—Average of 2.3 cm in length and 3 mm in width with basal portion clasping leaf about 3 mm width and length.

Foliage fragrance.—None.

Flower description:

Inflorescence type.—Solitary and pairs of salviiform flowers at terminus and upper nodes of lateral branches.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—About 4 days.

Fragrance.—Mildly sweet.

Quantity of flowers.—About 30 flowers per 4 inch container.

Flower type.—Salviiform.

Flower size.—About 3 cm in diameter and 2.5 cm in depth.

Flower aspect.—Held upright with petals spreading to nearly horizontal but slightly upward.

Flower buds.—About 2 cm in length and 5 mm in width, oblong in shape, color calyx portion 137C with heavy glaucous coating of 189B, petal portion 64B.

Peduncle.—An average of 1 cm in length and 1 mm in diameter, 138A in color, glaucous.

Pedicel.—Flowers are sessile to peduncle.

Petals.—4, limb; obdeltoid in shape, glabrous on upper and lower surface, rounded apex, margins are serrated along apex and sides and entire near base, wavy, about 1.7 cm in width and 1.4 cm in length, color 60B on upper surface and 64B on lower surface, claw; (enclosed in calyx) an average of 1 cm in length and 3 mm in width, color 144D, petals not persistent.

Calyx.—Cylindrical in shape, fused sepals with un-fused apex, glaucous surface, average of 1.5 cm in length and 6 mm in width, color 137C with heavy glaucous coating of 189B, persistent and dries to about 164C in color.

Sepals.—5, fused, the triangle-shaped tip at apex are un-fused and about 3 mm in length and 3 mm in width.

Epicalyx.—Comprised of 4 involucre bracts; oblong to ovate in shape with truncate base and acute apex, about 6 to 8 mm in length and 3 mm in width, color 137C with heavy glaucous coating of 189B, glaucous surface.

Reproductive organs:

Gynoecium.—Pistil; 2, about 2 cm in length at maturity, styles; N155C in color, crystalline in appearance, about 1.9 cm in length, stigma; extends down surface of style, about 1 cm in length, pilose, color N79B, curled at apex, ovary; superior, oblong in shape, 8 mm in length and 3.5 mm in width, 144A in color.

Androecium.—Stamens; 10, fused at base in ring around base of ovary, about 5 mm in length, filament; 145D in color, about 4 mm in length, crystalline in appearance, anthers; 165D in color, dorsifixed, oblong in shape, about 1 mm in length and 0.5 mm in width, appear papery, pollen; not discernable.

Fruit and seed.—Fruit; a capsule formed by calyx, development of seeds was not observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Dianthus* plant named 'Hope' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2