

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

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(54) **GARDENIA AUGUSTA PLANT NAMED**
‘PIIGA-I’

(50) Latin Name: ***Gardenia augusta* L.**
Varietal Denomination: **PIIGA-I**

(75) Inventor: **Michael Dirr**, Bogart, GA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Plant Introductions, Inc.**, Watkinsville,
GA (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.: **12/925,880**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 1, 2010**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./255**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./255
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP19,988 P3 5/2009 Dirr

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Page 12 of Plant Introductions, Inc. booklet showing *Gardenia*
Augusta ‘PIIGA-I’ as distributed to wholesale growers from Jan.
2010.

Primary Examiner — Annette Para

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Greenlee Sullivan P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Gardenia augusta* plant named
‘PIIGA-I’, characterized by its large, single white flowers that
are produced from spring to frost, lustrous, dark green foli-
age, compact rounded growth habit, and cold hardiness to
USDA Hardiness Zone 6b.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Genus and species of plant claimed: *Gardenia augusta* L.
Variety denomination: ‘PIIGA-I’

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Gardenia augusta*, a member of the Rubiaceae family,
hereinafter referred to by its cultivar name ‘PIIGA-I’. This
cultivar is grown primarily as an ornamental for landscape use
and for use as a potted plant.

The cultivar originated from open-pollination of *Gardenia*
augusta ‘MADGA I’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,988) in Dearing,
Ga., and was selected from the progeny by continued evalu-
ation for floral characteristics, growth habit, and cold hardi-
ness.

‘PIIGA-I’ has been asexually reproduced by softwood cut-
tings in Watkinsville, Ga. since 2005, and the characteristics
of the cultivar have been stable and reproduced true-to-type in
successive vegetative generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

‘PIIGA-I’ has not been observed under all possible envi-
ronmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat
with changes in light, temperature, soil and rainfall without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been observed and represent the
characteristics of the new cultivar. In combination these char-
acteristics distinguish ‘PIIGA-I’ from all other varieties in
commerce known to the inventor. 1) Large, single white flow-
ers that are produced from spring to frost. 2) Lustrous, dark
green foliage. 3) Compact rounded growth habit. 4) Cold
hardiness to USDA Hardiness Zone 6b.

‘PIIGA-I’ is distinguished from its female parent
‘MADGA I’ by its vigor, growth habit, flower size, foliage
size, fruit production, and cold hardiness. ‘PIIGA-I’ has a

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more vigorous and larger growth habit than ‘MADGA I’.
‘PIIGA-I’ has larger flowers and foliage than ‘MADGA I’.
‘PIIGA-I’ produces less fruit than ‘MADGA I’. ‘PIIGA-I’ is
more cold hardy than ‘MADGA I’ based on field testing in
Watkinsville, Ga. and Louisville, Ky. There are no other
cultivars of *Gardenia augusta* with this combination of char-
acteristics known to the inventor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying illustrations show characteristics of the
new cultivar in photographs as true to color as is reasonably
possible to make in illustrations of this nature. 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 *Gardenia*.

FIG. 1 shows the overall appearance of a mature plant of
‘PIIGA-I’.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of a flower of ‘PIIGA-I’.

FIG. 3 shows a comparison of the growth habit, foliage
size, and flower size of ‘PIIGA-I’ (right) to ‘MADGA I’ (left).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition,
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-
cance are used. Plants used for the description were approxi-
mately 2 years old and were grown in 11.8 L containers in full
sun under outdoor conditions in Watkinsville, Ga.

Botanical classification: ‘PIIGA-I’ is a cultivar of *Garde-*
nia augusta. Parentage: The current variety is a progeny from
an open-pollination of *Gardenia augusta* ‘MADGA I’ (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 19,988).

Plant description:

The claimed variety is a freely branching, rounded, ever-green shrub. The plant is hardy in USDA Zones 6b to 9.

Propagation.—Stem cuttings. Time to initiate roots in summer: about 4 weeks.

Root description.—Numerous, fibrous, and well-branched.

Plant size.—The original plant, planted in the ground, was about 75 cm high from the soil level to the top of the foliage and about 75 cm wide after about 5 years.

First year stems having a diameter of about 3 mm.—Shape: round. Pubescence: finely hairy.

First year stem color (young).—143A. Color (woody): 199B.

Stem strength.—Flexible when young, easily broken once mature.

Internode length.—About 2.2 cm.

Second year and older stems have a diameter of about 5 mm or more.—Shape: round. Pubescence: none.

Second year and older stem color.—199B.

Bark.—Some stringy exfoliation beginning on second year stems.

Trunk diameter.—about 1.5 cm at the soil line. Color: N200A.

Vegetative bud description:

Vegetative buds.—Arrangement: opposite. Shape: conical, single-scaled. Size: about 3 mm in length, about 1 mm in width; Color: 143A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite. Length: about 5.5 cm. Width: about 2.7 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical. Apex: acuminate. Base: cuneate. Margin: entire to revolute.

Texture (upper and lower surfaces).—Glabrous, lustrous, no pubescence.

Venation.—Pinnate. Venation color (upper and lower surfaces): 144B.

Color of emerging leaves.—144A on the upper surface, and 144B on the lower surface. Color of mature leaves: 139A on the upper surface, and 146B on the lower surface.

Petiole length.—About 2 mm. Petiole diameter: about 2 mm. Petiole texture: glabrous. Petiole color (upper and lower surfaces): 144B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Flowers are borne singly at the terminals. Individual flowers are showy for about 3 days and remain on the plant for about 1 to 2 weeks

after they have senesced. Bloom period: spring to frost. Flowers are produced prolifically from May to June, and then sporadically until October in Watkinsville, Ga. Fragrance: Exceedingly sweet fragrance.

Flower diameter.—about 7.5 cm.

Flower bud diameter.—About 1 cm. Flower bud length: about 2.5 cm. Flower bud shape: oblong. Flower bud color: 144A.

Pedicels.—About 2 cm in length, glabrous, and 144A.

Petals:

Quantity.—6, occasionally 7, petals per flower.

Petal length.—about 3.7 cm. Petal width: about 1.5 cm at the base to about 2.5 cm at the widest point.

Petal shape.—Obovate to spatulate with entire margin.

Petal texture: thick, glabrous.

Petal color.—At peak bloom the upper and lower surfaces are 155C.

Stamens:

Quantity.—6 per flower. There is no separate filament structure present. Anthers: about 1 cm long and about 2 mm wide. Color: 199A. Pollen: produced in small quantities and color is 8B.

Pistils:

Quantity/arrangement.—One per flower, superior. Pistil length: about 4.5 cm. Pistil diameter: about 5 mm. Stigma shape: obovate, about 5 mm in diameter. Stigma color: 154C. Style: color is 154D, about 2.5 cm in length, and tubular in shape. Ovary: color is 160D, about 2 cm in length, oval in shape, and contains many (100 or more) very small (less than 1 mm) ovules.

Fruit:

Type/appearance.—Six-winged berry, oval in shape. Fruit length: about 2.5 cm. Fruit diameter: about 2 cm. Fruit color at maturity: 165B. Quantity: fruit is produced sporadically and the number of fruit per plant varies depending on the size and maturity of the plant. Seeds: rounded in shape, about 2.5 mm in diameter, 164C in color, and each berry contains many seeds, about 100 or more.

Disease/pest resistance:

No specific pest or disease resistance or susceptibility has been observed.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Gardenia augusta* plant named 'PIIGA-I', substantially as illustrated and described herein.

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Fig. 1

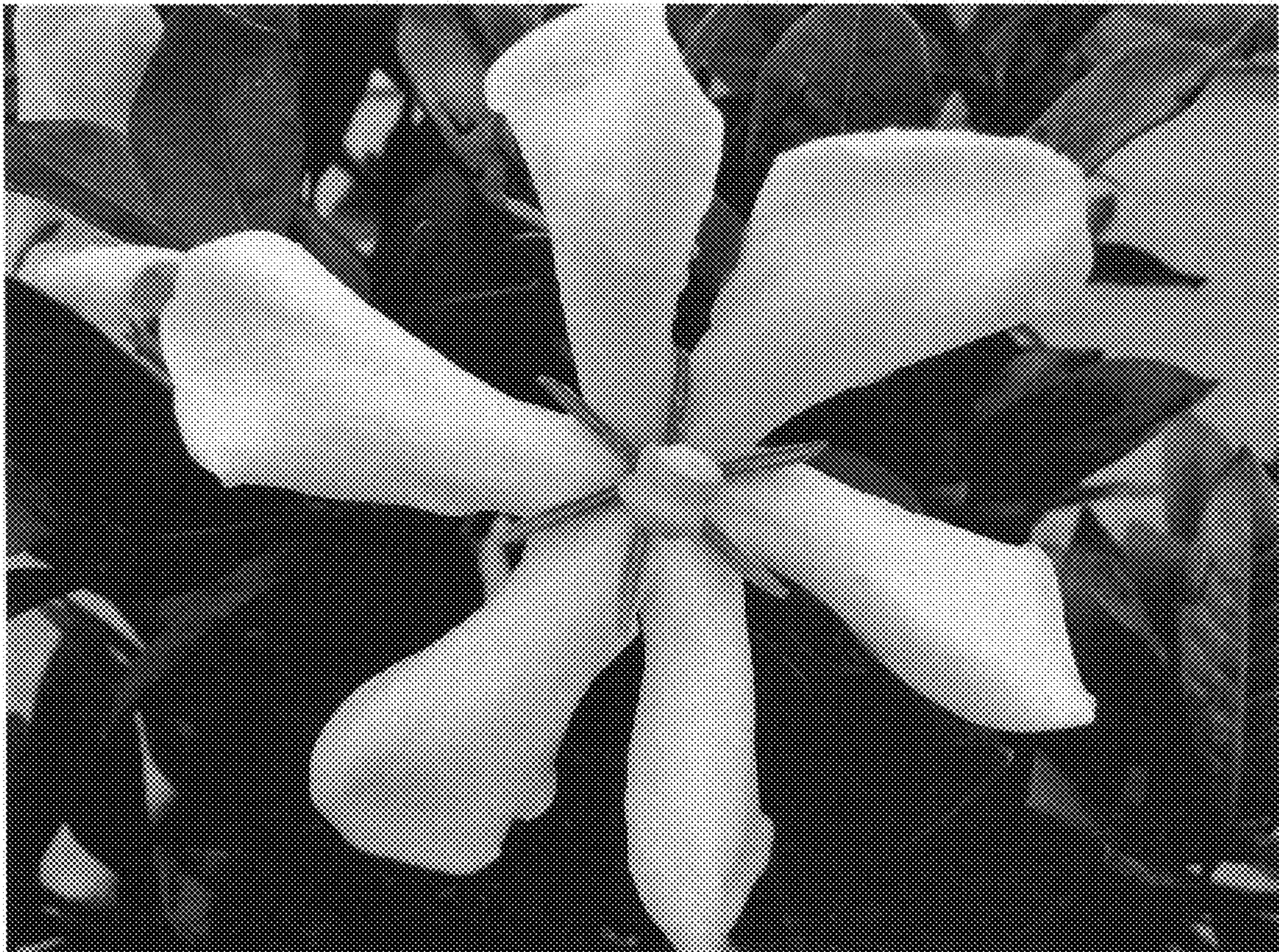


Fig. 2



Fig. 3