



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP22,561 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 6, 2012**

(54) **NEOREGELIA PLANTED NAMED**
'ROMANCE'

(50) Latin Name: *Neoregelia princeps*×(*Neoregelia*
hybrid×*Neoregelia carolinae*)
Varietal Denomination: **Romance**

(75) Inventor: **Patricia E. Gomez Bullis**, Princeton, FL
(US)

(73) Assignee: **Bullis Bromeliads**, Princeton, FL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 3 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/806,818**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 21, 2010**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./370**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./370**
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — June Hwu

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Neoregelia* plant named
'Romance', characterized by its upright and outwardly arch-
ing growth habit; broad glossy green and red purple-colored
lower leaves; broad glossy red purple-colored upper leaves;
and good interiorscape and landscape performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Neoregelia princeps*×(*Neoregelia*
hybrid×*Neoregelia carolinae*).

Cultivar denomination: 'ROMANCE'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Neoregelia* plant, botanically known as *Neoregelia prin-*
ceps×(*Neoregelia hybrid*×*Neoregelia carolinae*), and herein-
after referred to by the name 'Romance'.

The new *Neoregelia* plant is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Princeton, Fla. The
objective of the breeding program is to create new *Neoregelia*
plants with uniquely colored leaves.

The new *Neoregelia* plant originated from a cross-pollina-
tion made by the Inventor in 2002 in Princeton, Fla. of an
unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia princeps*, not
patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unnamed
proprietary selection of *Neoregelia hybrid*×*Neoregelia caro-*
linae, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new
Neoregelia plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor
as a single plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollina-
tion in a controlled greenhouse environment in Princeton,
Fla. in 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Neoregelia* plant by off-
sets in a controlled environment in Princeton, Fla. since 2003,
has shown that the unique features of this new *Neoregelia*
plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* 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 'Romance'.
These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Romance'
as a new and distinct cultivar of *Neoregelia*:

2

1. Upright and outwardly arching growth habit.
2. Broad glossy green and red purple-colored lower leaves.
3. Broad glossy red purple-colored upper leaves.
4. Good interiorscape and landscape performance.

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* differ primarily from plants of
the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* are more upright than
plants of the female parent selection.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Neoregelia* are glossier than
leaves of plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* and the female parent
selection differ in leaf coloration.

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* differ primarily from plants of
the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* do not require flower bud
initiation to develop leaf coloration whereas plants of the
male parent selection require flower bud initiation to
develop leaf coloration.

2. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* and the male parent selec-
tion differ in upper leaf coloration.

Plants of the new *Neoregelia* can be compared to plants of
an unnamed selection of *Neoregelia meyendorffii*, not pat-
ented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Princeton,
Fla., plants of the new *Neoregelia* and the unnamed selection
differed primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* had more upright and rigid
leaves than plants of the unnamed selection.
2. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* did not require flower bud
initiation to develop leaf coloration whereas plants of the
unnamed selection required flower bud initiation to
develop leaf coloration.
3. Plants of the new *Neoregelia* and the unnamed selection
differed in leaf coloration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance of the new *Neoregelia* plant showing the colors
as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions 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 *Neoregelia* plant.

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

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Romance'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe flowering plants grown during the spring in 15-cm containers in a polypropylene-covered greenhouse in Princeton, Fla. under commercial *Neoregelia* production practices. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 32° C., night temperatures ranged from 7° C. to 32° C. and light levels averaged 3,200 foot-candles. Plants were one year old when the photographs and 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: *Neoregelia princeps* × (*Neoregelia* hybrid × *Neoregelia carolinae*) 'Romance'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia princeps*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Neoregelia* hybrid × *Neoregelia carolinae*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By offsets.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 45 days at 28° C. to 30° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 60 days at 28° C. to 30° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three months at 28° C. to 30° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About four months at 18° C. to 22° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; yellow to tan in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Upright and outwardly arching growth habit; rosette leaves are erect when young, becoming outwardly arching with development; plants readily produce uniform offsets; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 23 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 44 cm.

Internode length.—About 3 mm.

Stem texture.—Smooth, glabrous.

Stem color.—Close to NN155D.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Rosette, spiral phyllotaxis; simple; sessile, clasping.

Shape.—Oblong.

Apex.—Cuspidate.

Base.—Truncate.

Margin.—Serrate; spinose.

Length.—About 33 cm.

Width, mid-section.—About 6.4 cm.

Width, base.—About 9 cm.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous; leathery.

Luster.—Glossy.

Venation pattern.—Parallel.

Color.—Lower leaves, upper surface: Darker than 148A; towards the apex, close to 60A; towards the base, close to 157D; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Lower leaves, lower surface: Close to 148A; towards the apex, close to 60B; towards the base, close to 157D; venation, similar to leaf surface coloration. Upper leaves, upper surface: Close to 61A; towards the base, close to 157D; venation, close to 61A. Upper leaves, lower surface: Close to 60A; towards the base, close to 157D, venation, close to 60A.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence form.—Terminal flat-topped compact corymb located inside the leaf rosette; about 80 flowers develop per inflorescence.

Time to flower.—Plants begin flowering about ten to twelve weeks after planting; plants flower naturally during the spring in Florida.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about one day on the plant; flowers persistent.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Inflorescence length.—About 6.4 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 4.6 cm.

Flower size.—Length: About 6.1 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 5.6 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Narrowly elongate. Color: Close to 91A.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Three in a single whorl. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: About 4.6 cm. Width: About 1 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to NN155D; towards the apex, close to 93B to 93C. When opening, lower surface: Close to NN155D; towards the apex, close to 91A. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to NN155D; towards the apex, close to 93B and 93C. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to NN155D; towards the apex, close to 91A.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per flower: One. Shape: Elliptic to oblanceolate. Length: About 4 cm. Width: About 1.2 cm. Texture: Membranous. Color: Close to 145C to 145D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Three in a single whorl. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Length: About 3.2 cm. Width: About 1 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B; towards the apex, close to 146C; towards the base, close to NN155D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Typically erect. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to NN155A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Typically erect to somewhat outward and curving upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 155D.

Stamens.—Quantity per flower: Six. Filament length: About 2.3 cm; partially adnate to the petals. Filament color: Close to NN155D. Anther shape: Lanceolate.

Anther length: About 6 mm. Anther color: Close to 158D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 158C.

Pistils.—Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 4.5 cm. Stigma shape: Oval, elongated. Stigma color: Close to 155D. Style length: About 2.6 cm. Style color: Close to NN155D. Ovary color: Close to NN155C.

Fruit/seed.—Fruit and seed production have not been observed on plants of the new *Neoregelia*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 2° C. to about 37° C.

Interior & garden performance: Plants of the new *Neoregelia* have been observed to have good postproduction longevity under interior conditions and to have good garden performance.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Neoregelia* plant named ‘Romance’

10 as illustrated and described.

* * * * *

