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Dümmen

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(54) **PHLOX PLANT NAMED ‘DUEPHOCHER’**

(50) Latin Name: *Phlox drummondii*
Varietal Denomination: **Duephocher**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 82 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./320**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./320**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Phlox* plant named ‘Duephocher’, characterized by its compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; freely branching habit; freely flowering habit; and large dark red-colored flowers with dark purple-colored centers.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Phlox drummondii*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘DUEPHOCHER’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Phlox* plant, botanically known as *Phlox drummondii* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Duephocher’.

The new *Phlox* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Rheinberg, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to create new compact *Phlox* plants with unique and attractive flower color.

The new *Phlox* plant originated from an open-pollination in Rheinberg, Germany in July, 2006 of a proprietary selection of *Phlox drummondii* identified as code number PH-05-0108-002, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Phlox drummondii* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Phlox* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Rheinberg, Germany in May, 2009.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Phlox* plant by cuttings in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany since May, 2009 has shown that the unique features of this new *Phlox* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Phlox* plant have not been observed under all possible environmental and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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 ‘Duephocher’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Duephocher’ as a new and distinct *Phlox* plant:

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

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4. Large dark red-colored flowers with dark purple-colored centers.

Plants of the new *Phlox* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Phlox* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Phlox* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Phlox* are more freely branching than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Phlox* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Phlox* can be compared to plants of the *Phlox* ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Phlox* and ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’ differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Phlox* were more compact and had shorter internodes than plants of ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’.
2. Plants of the new *Phlox* had smaller leaves than plants of ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’.
3. Plants of the new *Phlox* and ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’ differed in flower color as plants of ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’ had red purple-colored flowers.
4. Plants of the new *Phlox* had shorter peduncles than plants of ‘PowerPhlox Magenta’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Phlox* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Phlox* plant.

The photograph is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Duephocher’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during

the summer in 10.5-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Rheinberg, Germany and under commercial practice. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 18° C. and light levels averaged 4,500 lux. Plants were pinched one time three weeks after planting and were 13 weeks old when the photograph and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Phlox drummondii* 'Duephocher'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Phlox drummondii* identified as code number PH-05-0108-002, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Phlox drummondii*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About five days at temperatures of about 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About seven days at temperatures or about 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant, winter.—About four weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; broad inverted triangle; low to moderately vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit with about five main laterals developing each with numerous secondary laterals; relatively short internodes; dense and bushy plant habit.

Plant height.—About 15 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 21 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 17 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Internode length: About 2 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 145A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 2 cm.

Width.—About 5 mm.

Shape.—Elliptic.

Apex.—Apiculate.

Base.—Truncate to obtuse.

Margin.—Finely serrate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; pubescence along the margins.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 144A; venation, close to 144C. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 143C; venation, close to 144D.

Petiole.—Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 144C. Color, lower surface: Close to 144D.

Flower description:

Flower type/habit.—Single rotate and salverform flowers arranged in small panicles with about three flowers

each; flowers face mostly upright; freely flowering habit with about 80 flower buds and flowers developing per plant.

Fragrance.—Moderately fragrant; sweet, pleasant.

Natural flowering season.—Continuously flowering from summer to late summer in Germany; plants begin flowering about six weeks after planting.

Postproduction longevity.—Flowers last about three to four days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower buds.—Height: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Narrowly obovate. Color: Close to 83A.

Inflorescence height.—About 2 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 5 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 2.2 cm.

Flower depth (tube length).—About 1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity/arrangement: Five in a single whorl; petals fused at the base into a narrow tube. Length: About 2.2 cm. Width: About 2.2 cm. Shape: Spatulate. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing and fully expanded petals, upper surface: Close to 53A; towards the base, close to 79A; color becoming closer to 79A with development; throat, close to 158D. Developing and fully expanded petals, lower surface: Close to 64A; color becoming closer to 79A with development.

Sepals.—Quantity/arrangement per flower: Five in a single whorl, fused towards the base into a slender tube. Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly apiculate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3.7 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: Upright. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 145A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 30° from peduncle axis. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 145A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically five. Filament length: About 5 mm. Filament color: Close to 157B. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: About 1.5 mm. Anther color: Close to 14A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 14A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to 6B. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: Close to 149C. Ovary color: Close to 149A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Phlox* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Phlox* plant named 'Duephocher' as illustrated and described.

