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Beekenkamp

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(54) **DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'BKDARS'**

(50) Latin Name: *Dahlia hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Bkdars**

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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 94 days.

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./321**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant named 'Bkdars', characterized by its compact, upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; dense and bushy growth habit; early and continuous flowering habit; double inflorescences with light purple-colored ray florets; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Dahlia hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Bkdars'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hybrida*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Bkdars'.

The new *Dahlia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Maasdijk, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create new container *Dahlia* plants that have a freely branching habit, attractive ray floret coloration, long flowering period and good garden performance.

The new *Dahlia* plant originated from an open-pollination in July, 2006 in Maasdijk, The Netherlands of a proprietary selection of *Dahlia hybrida* identified as code number 2006-0136, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Dahlia hybrida* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Dahlia* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Maasdijk, The Netherlands in July, 2007.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Dahlia* plant by cuttings in a controlled environment in Maasdijk, The Netherlands since November, 2007 has shown that the unique features of this new *Dahlia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Compact, upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit.

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2. Dense and bushy growth habit.
3. Early and continuous flowering habit.
4. Double inflorescences with light purple-colored ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Compared to plants of the female parent selection, plants of the new *Dahlia* differ primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Dahlia* are darker green in color than leaves of plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Dahlia* have shorter peduncles than plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Dahlia* and the female parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the female parent selection have white to pink-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Dahlia* can be compared to plants of *Dahlia* 'Gallery Sisley', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,808. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Maasdijk, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Dahlia* differed from plants of 'Gallery Sisley' in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Dahlia* were darker green in color than leaves of plants of 'Gallery Sisley'.
2. Plants of the new *Dahlia* had shorter peduncles than plants of 'Gallery Sisley'.
3. Plants of the new *Dahlia* and 'Gallery Sisley' differed in ray floret color as plants of 'Gallery Sisley' had red purple-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Dahlia* plant showing 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 *Dahlia* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bkdars' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Bkdars'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and the following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the winter in 15-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Maasdijk, The Netherlands and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial container *Dahlia* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 17° C. to 19° C. Plants were pinched one time and were nine weeks 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: *Dahlia hybrida* 'Bkdars'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Dahlia hybrida* identified as code number 2006-0136, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Dahlia hybrida*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 16 days at temperatures of about 18° C. to 21° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 19 days at temperatures of about 19° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 21 days at temperatures of about 18° C. to 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 23 days at temperatures of about 19° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous, white in color; tuber development has not been observed.

Rooting habit.—Moderate branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Compact, upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounding plant form; broad inverted triangle; about six primary lateral branches develop, each primary lateral branch with numerous secondary branches; inflorescences held above the foliar plane on strong peduncles; bushy and dense growth habit.

Plant height.—About 19.7 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 27.6 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10.2 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: About 2.6 cm. Aspect: About 30° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 143A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Leaves opposite; leaves compound with three to five leaflets.

Compound leaves.—Length: About 14.5 cm. Width: About 12.2 cm.

Leaflet leaves.—Length: About 9 cm. Width: About 5.6 cm.

Shape.—Compound leaves: Ovate. Leaflets: Broadly ovate to broadly elliptic.

Apex, leaflets.—Apiculate.

Base, leaflets.—Attenuate.

Margin, leaflets.—Coarsely dentate.

Venation pattern, leaflets.—Pinnate.

Texture, upper surface, leaflets.—Smooth, glabrous; mid-vein, sparsely pubescent.

Texture, lower surface, leaflets.—Smooth, glabrous.

Color.—Developing leaflets, upper surface: Close to 143A. Developing leaflets, lower surface: Close to 144A. Fully expanded leaflets, upper surface: Close to N137A; venation, close to 146A to 146B. Fully expanded leaflets, lower surface: Close to 191A; venation, close to 147B to 147C.

Petioles.—Length: About 3.7 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 146B slightly tinged with close to 183A. Color, lower surface: Close to 144B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance and arrangement.—Double inflorescence form with ray and disc florets forming acropetally on a receptacle; inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane on strong peduncles; inflorescences face mostly upright; freely flowering habit, about 30 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Time to flower.—Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about ten weeks after planting; plants flower continuously during the late summer in The Netherlands.

Post-production longevity.—Inflorescences maintain good substance for about two to three weeks on the plant; inflorescences not persistent.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Flattened globular. Color: Close to N144A to N144B; towards the base, between 143B and 144A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 7.2 cm. Depth (height): About 5 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.4 cm. Receptacle height: About 3 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 8 mm. Receptacle color: Close to 145C.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 120 arranged in about five whorls. Length: About 3.4 cm. Width: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Broadly acute to emarginate. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: About 65° from vertical; ray florets, concave. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; moderately velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 77D; at the margin, close to 77A; towards the base, close to 155A; at the base, close to 1C. When opening, lower surface: Close to 72B; at the margin, close to 77A; towards the base, close to 155B; at the base, close to 1C. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 77D; at the margin, close to 77A; towards the base, close to 155A; at the base, close to 1B to 1C. With development, color becoming closer to 72B to 72C; towards the base, between 1A to 1B and 2B. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 72A to 72B; at the margin, close to 77A; towards the base, close to 155B; at the base, close to 1D.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 25. Length: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Tubular, elongated; apices, acute. Texture, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, inner and outer surfaces: Close to 13B; towards the base, close to 151C to 151D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About eight arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1.9 cm. Width: About 7 mm. Shape: Narrowly ovate. Apex:

Obtuse. Base: Broadly cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 150B; towards the base, close to 143A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 7.5 cm. 5
Length, axillary peduncle: About 6 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Aspect: Erect to about 30° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 143B to 143C tinged with close to 200A to 200B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium, present on disc florets only: Quantity per floret: About five. Filament length: About 3 mm. Filament color: Close to 151C to 151D. Anther shape: Narrowly oblong. Anther length: About 3 mm. Anther color: Close to 22A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 23A. Gynoecium, present on ray and disc florets: Quantity per floret: One. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style length:

About 8 mm. Style color: Close to 151C to 151D. Stigma shape: Cleft. Stigma color: Close to 13A. Ovary color: Close to 145C. Seeds/fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Dahlia*.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Dahlia* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate wind and rain. Plants of the new *Dahlia* have been observed to be tolerant to high temperatures of 35° C. and hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 8.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Dahlia* plant named 'Bkdars' as illustrated and described.

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