



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP23,967 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 8, 2013**

(54) **ASTER PLANT NAMED ‘BKATRWT’**

(50) Latin Name: *Aster novi-belgii*
Varietal Denomination: **BKATRWT**

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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 93 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/373,737**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 28, 2011**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **Plt./355**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC **Plt./355**

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Aster* plant named
‘BKATRWT’, characterized by its broadly upright and uni-
formly mounded plant habit; freely branching growth habit;
uniform and freely flowering habit; and large daisy-type
inflorescences with white-colored ray florets.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Aster novi-belgii*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘BKATRWT’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Aster* plant, botanically known as *Aster novi-belgii* and
hereinafter referred to by the name ‘BKATRWT’.

The new *Aster* plant is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Maasdijk, The Neth-
erlands. The objective of the breeding program was to
develop new freely-branching container-type *Aster* plants
with uniform plant habit and attractive inflorescence colora-
tion.

The new *Aster* plant originated from an open-pollination in
July, 2005 in Maasdijk, The Netherlands of a proprietary
selection of *Aster novi-belgii* identified as code number
1000051, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an
unknown selection of *Aster novi-belgii*, as the male, or pollen,
parent. The new *Aster* plant was discovered and selected by
the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of
the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in
Maasdijk, The Netherlands in July, 2006.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Aster* plant by vegetative
tip cuttings was first conducted in Maasdijk, The Netherlands
in November, 2006. Asexual reproduction by cuttings has
shown that the unique features of this new *Aster* plant are
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Aster* plant have not been observed under
all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices.
The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in envi-
ronmental conditions such as temperature, daylength 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 ‘BKATRWT’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘BKATRWT’ as a new and distinct *Aster* plant:

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1. Broadly upright and uniformly mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Uniform and freely flowering habit.
4. Large daisy-type inflorescences with white-colored ray
florets.

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

1. Plants of the new *Aster* are more freely flowering than
plants of the female parent selection.
2. Disc florets of plants of the new *Aster* flower do not turn
brown with development whereas disc florets of plants
of the female parent selection turn brown with develop-
ment.

Plants of the new *Aster* can be compared to plants of *Aster*
‘Victoria Diana’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,359. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Maasdijk, The Neth-
erlands, plants of the new *Aster* differed from plants of ‘Vic-
toria Diana’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Aster* were more freely flowering than
plants of ‘Victoria Diana’.
2. Disc florets of plants of the new *Aster* flower did not turn
brown with development whereas disc florets of plants
of ‘Victoria Diana’ turned brown with development.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Aster* 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 descrip-
tion which accurately describe the colors of the new *Aster*
plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspec-
tive view of a typical flowering plant of ‘BKATRWT’ grown
in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet are close-up views of
the upper and lower surfaces of typical leaves and typical
inflorescences of ‘BKATRWT’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observa-
tions and measurements describe plants grown during the late

summer in 12-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Maasdijk, The Netherlands and grown under environmental conditions and cultural practices which approximate those generally used in commercial container *Aster* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 19° C. Plants were pinched 24 days after planting and were twelve weeks old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, Fifth Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Aster novi-belgii* 'BKATRWT'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Aster novi-belgii* identified as code number 1000051, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Aster novi-belgii*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 10 to 14 days at temperatures of about 19° to 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 14 to 16 days at temperatures of about 19° to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures of about 19° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About three to four weeks at temperatures of about 19° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant shape and habit.—Herbaceous daisy-type potted *Aster*; broadly upright with lateral branches somewhat outwardly spreading; inverted triangle with uniformly mounded crown.

Branching habit.—Strong and freely branching growth habit with about four lateral branches per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development.

Plant height.—About 16 cm.

Plant width.—About 18.7 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 11.2 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 6 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: Upright to about 55° from vertical. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: Close to 137C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple; sessile.

Length.—About 4.4 cm.

Width.—About 9 mm.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Apex.—Narrowly acuminate.

Base.—Cordate, amplexicaul.

Margin.—Finely serrate.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Glabrous; slightly rugose.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to N137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Between 138A and 147B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137C; venation, close to 147B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C; venation, close to 138A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with narrowly oblanceolate-shaped ray floret; inflorescences borne uniformly on terminals above and beyond the foliar plane; disk and ray florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Under natural conditions, plants flower from midsummer into the autumn in The Netherlands; plants begin to flower about 40 days after planting.

Inflorescence longevity of the plant.—Inflorescences maintain good substance and color for about two weeks; inflorescences persistent.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering habit with about 75 inflorescences developing per plant.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 9 mm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Broadly ovate. Color: Between 155C and 157D; towards the base, between 143B and 144B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 3.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1.3 cm. Diameter of disc: About 1.5 cm. Receptacle height: About 1 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 3 mm. Receptacle color: Close to 144C.

Ray florets.—Length: About 1.8 cm. Width: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Narrowly oblanceolate. Apex: Retuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; longitudinally ribbed. Orientation: Initially upright, then about 75° from vertical. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 36 arranged in about two whorls. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to NN155D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to NN155D.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 40. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 2 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 145C.

Phyllaries.—Number of phyllaries per inflorescence: About 40 arranged in about four whorls. Length: About 5 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143A; towards the margins, close to 143C.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 2.8 mm. Length, fourth peduncle: About 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: Upright to about 40° from vertical. Strength: Strong, flexible. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 137D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Quantity of stamens per floret: Five. Filament length: About 5 mm. Filament color: Close to 145C. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 9A to 9B. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 9B. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. Quantity of pistils per floret: One. Pistil length: About 8 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to 145D. Style length: About 6 mm. Style color: Close to 145D. Ovary color: Close to 157A to 157B.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit production have not been observed on plants of the new *Aster*.
Disease & pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Asters* has not been observed on plants of the new *Aster*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Aster* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate temperatures ranging from 5° C. to about 30° C.
It is claimed:
1. A new and distinct *Aster* plant named ‘BKATRWT’ as illustrated and described.

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