

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

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED**  
**‘DUEPROTEGE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd  
Varietal Denomination: **Dueprotege**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 92 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **Plt./307**; Plt./302; Plt./303

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant named  
‘Dueprotege’, characterized by its upright, outwardly spread-  
ing and uniform plant habit; moderately vigorous growth  
habit; strong and vigorous roots; freely branching habit; large  
inflorescences with dark red-colored flower bracts; and excel-  
lent post-production longevity.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘DUEPROTEGE’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of Poinsettia plant, botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcher-*  
*rima* Willd., and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Duepro-  
tege’.

The new Poinsettia 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 Poinsettia  
plants with attractive flower bract coloration.

The new Poinsettia plant originated from a cross-pollina-  
tion made by the Inventor in May, 2008 in Rheinberg, Ger-  
many of a proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima*  
Willd. identified as code number F-16-018, not patented, as  
the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of  
*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number  
E04-0817-001, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent.  
The new Poinsettia plant was discovered and selected by the  
Inventor as a flowering plant from within the progeny of the  
stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environ-  
ment in Rheinberg, Germany in December, 2010.

Asexual reproduction of the new Poinsettia plant by termi-  
nal vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environ-  
ment in Rheinberg, Germany since January, 2011 has shown  
that the unique features of this new Poinsettia plant are stable  
and reproduced true to type in successive generations of  
asexual reproduction.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new Poinsettia 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 ‘Dueprotege’.  
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Duepro-  
tege’ as a new and distinct Poinsettia plant:

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1. Upright, outwardly spreading and uniform plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Strong and vigorous roots.
4. Freely branching habit.
5. Large inflorescences with dark red-colored flower  
bracts.
6. Excellent post-production longevity.

Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of  
the female parent selection in flower bract color as plants of  
the new Poinsettia have darker red-colored flower bracts than  
plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of  
the male parent selection in flower bract size as plants of the  
new Poinsettia have larger flower bracts than plants of the  
male parent selection.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of  
*Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ‘Fiscor’, disclosed in U.S.  
Plant Pat. No. 9,364. In side-by-side comparisons conducted  
in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Poinsettia differed  
primarily from plants of ‘Fiscor’ in the following character-  
istics:

1. Plants of the new Poinsettia were more upright than  
plants of ‘Fiscor’.
2. Flower bracts of plants of the new Poinsettia were darker  
red in color than flower bracts of plants of ‘Fiscor’.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall  
appearance of the new Poinsettia plant showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproduc-  
tions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly  
from the color values cited in the detailed botanical descrip-  
tion which accurately describe the colors of the new Poinset-  
tia plant.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a  
typical flowering plant of ‘Dueprotege’ grown in a container.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The aforementioned photograph and following observa-  
tions and measurements describe plants grown in Rheinberg,



Germany during the summer in a glass-covered greenhouse and under environmental conditions and cultural practices which approximate those generally used in commercial Poinsettia production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 22° C. and light levels were about 4,500 lux. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Single plants were grown in 12-cm containers and were pinched one time three weeks after planting the cuttings. Plants were 16 weeks old when the photograph and the detailed 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: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. 'Dueprotege'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number F-16-018, not patented.

*Male or pollen parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number E04-0817-001, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type.*—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About five days at 20° C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About seven days at 20° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About three weeks at 20° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.*—About four weeks at 20° C.

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

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

*Plant habit and form.*—Upright, outwardly spreading and uniform plant habit; broad inverted triangle, mounding; large inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane; moderately vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 25 cm.

*Plant diameter or spread.*—About 33 cm.

*Lateral branch description.*—Quantity: Freely branching habit, about six to seven lateral branches develop after pinching. Length: About 18 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1.5 cm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 137A.

*Foliage description.*—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 10.5 cm. Width: About 9.2 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Lobed; dentate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Rugose, glabrous. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 146A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137A to 137B; venation, close to 146B to 146C. Petiole: Length: About 6.3 cm. Diameter: About 2.6 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 187A to 187B.

Inflorescence description:

*Inflorescence type and habit.*—Inflorescences are compound corymbs of cyathia with flower bracts subtending the cyathia; one inflorescence per lateral branch with inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Natural flowering season.*—Plants flower naturally during the autumn and winter under long nyctoperiod conditions; inflorescence initiation and development can be induced under artificial long nyctoperiod conditions; early flowering habit, response time is about eight weeks.

*Post-production longevity.*—Excellent post-production longevity; plants of the new Poinsettia maintain good substance and bract color for about twelve weeks under interior conditions.

*Inflorescence size.*—Diameter: About 24 cm. Height (depth): About 5 cm.

*Flower bracts.*—Quantity per inflorescence: About 15. Length: About 11.4 cm. Width: About 9.4 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire; dentate. Texture, upper surface: Glabrous; smooth, Texture, lower surface: Glabrous; rugose. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing bracts, upper surface: Close to 46A. Developing bracts, lower surface: Close to 53B. Transitional bracts, upper surface: Close to 46A. Transitional bracts, lower surface: Close to 46A to 46B. Fully developed bracts, upper surface: Close to 46A; venation, close to 46A; color becoming closer to 46A to 46B with development. Fully developed bracts, lower surface: Close to 46A to 46B; venation, close to 46A to 46B; color becoming closer to 46C to 46D with development. Bract petiole: Length: About 1.9 cm. Diameter: About 2.4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 53A.

*Cyathia.*—Quantity per corymb: About ten. Length: About 8 mm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color, immature: Inner surface: Close to 143C. Outer surface: Close to 143B. Color, mature: Inner surface: Close to 143B. Outer surface: Close to 143B to 143C. Nectaries: Quantity per cyathium: One. Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Color, inner surface: Close to 17A. Color, outer surface: Close to 17C.

*Peduncles.*—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 143C.

*Reproductive organs.*—Stamens: Quantity per cyathium: About ten. Filament length: About 7 mm. Filament color: Close to 53A. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther color: Close to 187A to 187B. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 9A. Pistils: Quantity per cyathium: One. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style length: About 2 mm. Style color: Close to 144B. Stigma shape: Crested. Stigma color: Close to 59A to 59B. Ovary color: Close to 144A. Seeds and fruits: Seed and fruit production have not been observed on plants of the new Poinsettia.

Disease & pest resistance: Plants of the new Poinsettia have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Poinsettia plants.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Poinsettia plant named 'Dueprotege' as illustrated and described.

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