



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

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(54) **POINSETTIA PLANT NAMED ‘RFAM444’**

(50) Latin Name: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.
Varietal Denomination: **RFAM444**

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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 58 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./306**

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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 ‘RFAM444’, characterized by its compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; early flowering habit; inflorescences with light pink-colored flower bracts; and excellent post-production longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd.
Cultivar denomination: ‘RFAM444’.

CROSS-REFERENCED TO CLOSELY RELATED APPLICATION

Title: Poinsettia Plant Named ‘RFAM445’
Applicant: Tobias Dümmen
Filed: Concurrently with this application U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 13/999,428

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Poinsettia plant, botanically known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd., and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘RFAM444’. Plants of the new Poinsettia have not been made available publicly nor sold for more than one year prior to the filing of this application.

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 vigorous Poinsettia plants with attractive flower bract coloration.

The new Poinsettia plant is a naturally occurring whole plant mutation of a proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number F-16-016, not patented. The new Poinsettia plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within a population of plants of the proprietary parent selection in a controlled greenhouse environment in Rheinberg, Germany in December, 2013.

Asexual reproduction of the new Poinsettia plant by terminal vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Rheinberg, Germany since December, 2013 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.

2

The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental 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 ‘RFAM444’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘RFAM444’ as a new and distinct Poinsettia plant:

1. Compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Early flowering habit.
4. Inflorescences with light pink-colored flower bracts.
5. Excellent post-production longevity.

Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of the proprietary parent selection in flower bract color as plants of the new Poinsettia have lighter pink-colored flower bracts than plants of the proprietary parent selection.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ‘RFAM445’, disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 13/999,428 filed concurrently. Plants of the new Poinsettia differ primarily from plants of ‘RFAM445’ in flower bract color as plants of the new Poinsettia have lighter pink-colored flower bracts than plants of ‘RFAM445’. Additionally, plants of the new Poinsettia are smaller than plants of ‘RFAM445’.

Plants of the new Poinsettia can be compared to plants of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ‘RFPPG1’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Poinsettia differed primarily from plants of ‘RFPPG1’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Poinsettia were broader than plants of ‘RFPPG1’.
2. Plants of the new Poinsettia had smaller inflorescences than plants of ‘RFPPG1’.
3. Flower bracts of plants of the new Poinsettia were lighter pink in color than flower bracts of plants of ‘RFPPG1’.

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 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 Poinsettia plant.

The photograph comprises a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'RFAM444' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Rheinberg, Germany during the summer in a glass-covered greenhouse and under cultural practices typical of commercial Poinsettia production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 22° C. and light levels averaged 4,500 lux. Single plants were grown in 12-cm containers and were pinched one time about three weeks after planting the cuttings. Two weeks after pinching, the photoinductive treatments (long nyctoperiods) were initiated. 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. 'RFAM444'.

Parentage: Naturally occurring whole plant mutation of a proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. identified as code number F-16-016, 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.—Compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; broad inverted triangle, mounding; inflorescences with large flower bracts positioned above the foliar plane; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 13.2 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 18.6 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity: Freely branching habit, about six lateral branches develop after pinching. Length: About 8.7 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1.2 cm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 137A.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 7.6 cm. Width: About 4.4 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 and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 146C. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137A; venation, close

to 146D. Petioles: Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 183A. Color, lower surface: Close to 144A.

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 10.1 cm. Height (depth): About 2.7 cm.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per inflorescence: About eleven. Length: About 4.7 cm. Width: About 2.4 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 69A. Developing bracts, lower surface: Close to 65D. Transitional bracts, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 69D. Fully developed bracts, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 69D; venation, close to 69D; color does not fade with development. Bract petioles: Length: About 6.4 mm. Diameter: About 1.6 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144C.

Cyathia.—Quantity per corymb: About eleven. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Texture, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, immature: Inner surface: Close to 143C. Outer surface: Close to 143B. Color, mature: Inner surface: Close to 143B. Outer surface: Close to 144B. Nectaries: Quantity per cyathium: One. Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Texture, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, immature and mature: Inner surface: Close to 17A. Outer surface: Close to 17C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 143B.

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 8 mm. 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 ‘RFAM444’ as illustrated and described.

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