



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

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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED ‘QUFU’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **QUFU**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./250**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./250**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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PP25,577 P3 * 5/2015 Meinl Plt./250

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Hydrangea macrophylla* named ‘QUFU’
that is characterized by its inflorescences with a flattened
shape, its sterile flowers with very hard, almost leathery
sepals and its sterile flowers with sepals that are green and
pink with white-pink veins when newly opened becoming
greener with age, and its good cut flower quality lasting at
least 3 weeks as a fresh cut and for many months as a dried cut
(when “classic”).

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.
Varietal denomination: ‘QUFU’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Hydrangea macrophylla* and will be referred to hereafter
by its cultivar name, ‘QUFU’. ‘QUFU’ represents a new
mophead type *Hydrangea*, a deciduous shrub grown for use
as a landscape plant, potted plant and as a cut flower.

The new cultivar was derived from a controlled breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Boskoop, The Nether-
lands. The Inventor made a cross on May 13, 2008 between
unnamed proprietary plants in the Inventor’s breeding pro-
gram; reference name Kroe-1 as the female parent and refer-
ence name GS-1 as the male parent. The Inventor selected
‘QUFU’ as a single unique plant amongst the seedlings that
resulted from the above cross in spring of 2011.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by the Inventor by softwood cuttings in Boskoop, The
Netherlands in July 2010. Asexual propagation by softwood
cuttings has determined that the characteristics of the new
cultivar are stable and are reproduced true to type in succes-
sive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish ‘QUFU’ as a unique
cultivar of *Hydrangea*.

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1. ‘QUFU’ exhibits inflorescences with a flattened shape.
2. ‘QUFU’ exhibits sterile flowers with very hard, almost
leathery sepals.
3. ‘QUFU’ exhibits sterile flowers with sepals that are
green and pink with white-pink veins when newly
opened and becoming greener with age.
4. ‘QUFU’ exhibits a good cut flower quality lasting at least
3 weeks as a fresh cut and for many months as the
flowers age (when classic green).

The female parent of ‘QUFU’, reference name Kroe-1,
differs from ‘QUFU’ in having white flowers, shorter stems,
and globular shaped inflorescences. The male parent of
‘QUFU’, reference name GS-1, differs from ‘QUFU’ in hav-
ing sterile flowers with softer, dark pink sepals with much less
green suffusion. ‘QUFU’ can be most closely compared to the
cultivars ‘Hokomathyst’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,261) and
‘Green Shadow’ (not patented). ‘Hokomathyst’ is similar to
‘QUFU’ in having sterile flowers that are pink and green and
in having an inflorescence with a flattened shape. ‘Hoko-
mathyst’ differs from ‘QUFU’ in having longer stems, smaller
sterile flower sepals, and flowering later in the season. ‘Green
Shadow’ is similar to ‘QUFU’ in having inflorescences with a
flattened shape. ‘Green Shadow’ differs from ‘QUFU’ in hav-
ing sterile flower sepals that are darker pink in color with less
green suffusion and that lack light colored veins.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance and distinct characteristics of the new *Hydran-*

gea. The photographs were taken of a two year-old plant of 'QUFU' as grown in a 19-cm container in a shaded greenhouse in Boskoop, The Netherlands.

The photograph in FIG. 1 provides a side view of a plant of 'QUFU'.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of an inflorescence of 'QUFU'.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the foliage of 'QUFU'.

The 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 *Hydrangea*.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of two year-old plants of 'QUFU' as grown in a shaded greenhouse in 19-cm containers in Boskoop, The Netherlands. Phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions. The color determination is in accordance with The 2007 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

General description:

Blooming period.—Commences in May and blooms for 6 months as greenhouse grown plants in Boskoop, the Netherlands.

Plant type.—Deciduous shrub, mophead type *Hydrangea*.

Plant habit.—Broad upright.

Height and spread.—Reaches about 45.8 cm in height and 66.5 cm in spread.

Hardiness.—U.S.D.A. zone 5 to at least U.S.D.A. zone 9, moderate tolerance to wind, moderate to high tolerance to rain.

Diseases resistance.—No particular susceptibility or resistance to diseases or pests has been observed.

Root description.—Fine and fibrous.

Propagation.—Softwood stem cuttings.

Growth rate and vigor.—Moderate.

Stem description:

Stem shape.—Rounded.

Stem strength.—Strong.

Stem color.—New growth; 143C with N186A at the nodes, mature growth; a blend of 165B to 165C and N199D.

Stem size.—Average of 32.4 cm in length and 6 mm in diameter.

Stem surface.—Glabrous, sparsely to moderately lenticellate, lenticles; 5 per cm², an average of 1.5 mm in length and 1 mm in width, N186C in color.

Internode length.—Average of 5.3 cm.

Branching.—Average of 9 lateral branches.

Stem fasciation.—None observed.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Ovate to broad ovate.

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Short attenuate.

Leaf apex.—Broad apiculate.

Leaf margins.—Serrate.

Leaf venation.—Pinnate, upper and lower surface 144B in color.

Leaf size.—Matures to an average of 11.6 cm in length and 8.6 cm in width.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Leaf surface.—Upper surface; glabrous and very slightly rugose, lower surface; glabrous.

Leaf color.—Young foliage upper and lower surface; 144A, mature foliage upper surface; N137A, mature foliage lower surface; a blend of 137D and 147B.

Petioles.—An average of 2.9 cm in length and 3 mm in diameter, upper and lower surface 144B in color, both upper and lower surfaces glabrous and moderately glossy.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence type.—Terminal panicle, flattened mophead in form comprised of a center region of inconspicuous fertile flowers surrounded by numerous single sterile flowers.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—Persistent for 6 months with pink coloration retained for 6 months (become more green).

Lastingness as a cut flower.—At least 3 weeks as a fresh cut and for many months as the flowers age (when classic green).

Inflorescence number.—One per lateral or sublateral stem if pinched.

Inflorescence size.—Average of 11.1 cm in height and 19.7 cm in diameter.

Flower number.—Average of 90 sterile flowers and 27 fertile flowers per panicle.

Flower fragrance.—None.

Flower aspect.—Upright to outward.

Flower size.—Sterile flowers; an average of 4.7 cm in diameter and 1.6 mm in depth, fertile flowers; an average of 9 mm in diameter and 5 mm in depth.

Flower type.—Rotate.

Flower buds.—Sterile flowers; average of 9 mm in length and 1 cm in diameter prior to opening, obovate in shape, 145A in color, fertile flowers; average of 4 mm in width and diameter, broad obovate in shape, 145C with base 145A in color.

Peduncles.—Moderately strong, average of 3.5 cm in length and 2 mm in width, 150D in color, surface is dull and glabrous.

Pedicels.—Sterile flowers; held at an average angle of 45° from vertical, an average of 3 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter, strong strength, 157A to 157B in color, surface dull and glabrous, fertile flowers; held at an average angle of 15° from vertical, an average of 5 mm in length and 1 mm in diameter, moderate strength, a blend of 145D and 150D in color, surface is dull and glabrous.

Petals.—Fertile flowers; average of 5, rotate in arrangement, ovate and concave in shape, entire margin, acute apex, cuneate base, average of 3.5 mm in length and 2 mm in width, upper and lower surface glabrous and dull, color of upper surface when opening and when fully open 64D, color of lower surface when opening 151D and when fully opened 151D suffused with 62D, color not fading, sterile flowers; an average of 4, rotate arrangement, acute apex, cuneate base, entire margins, ovate and concave in shape, an average of 3 mm in length and 2 mm in width, upper and lower surface; glabrous and dull, color; upper surface when opening; 65A with margins and base NN155C, lower surface when opening; 68C, upper surface

when fully opened 65A with margins and base NN155C, lower surface when fully opened; 68C, color not fading.

Sepals.—Sterile flowers; average of 4, rotate arrangement, broad rhomboidal to deltoid in shape, moderately to strongly overlapping, an average of 2.9 cm in length and 3.1 cm in width, broad acute apex, obtuse base, upper and lower surface glabrous and dull, entire margins (occasionally notched near apex), color when opening upper surface; 62A to 62C and irregularly blotched with a mix of 145A to 145B, 144A, and 143C, with veins N155C, color when opening lower surface; 62C and irregularly blotched with 145A, color when fully opened upper surface; a blend of 61C and 53B and irregularly blotched with 143B (irregular in location but most typically in centers) and veins of N155C color when fully opened lower surface; a blend of 63C and 64D, irregularly blotched with 145B, fading to 70C to 70D, fertile flowers; 5, rotate in arrangement, ovate in shape, entire margin, acute apex, broadly cuneate base, average of 2 mm in length and 0.15 mm in width, both surfaces are glabrous and dull, color of upper surface when opening 145B to 145C and when fully opened 145B, color of lower surface when opening and when fully open 145C, color is not fading.

Reproductive organs: (Present on fertile flowers and occasionally on sterile flowers).

Stamens.—Sterile flowers; average of 8, anther is broad reniform in shape, 0.75 mm in length and 155A in color, filament is 3 mm in length and NN155B to NN155C in color, pollen is low to moderate in quantity and 155A in color, fertile flowers; average of 10, anther is broad reniform in shape, 0.75 mm in length and 157A to 157B in color, filament is 3.5 mm in length and NN155B in color, pollen is low to moderate in quantity and 196D in color.

Pistils.—Sterile flowers; average of 2, average of 1.5 mm in length, stigma is clavate in shape and NN155C to NN155D in color, style is an average of 1 mm in length and 145C in color, ovary is 144B in color, fertile flowers; average of 3, an average of 1.5 mm in length, stigma is clavate in shape and 157D in color, style is an average of 1 mm in length and 145B in color, ovary is 145B in color.

Fruit and seed: Has not been observed to date.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named 'QUFU' substantially as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

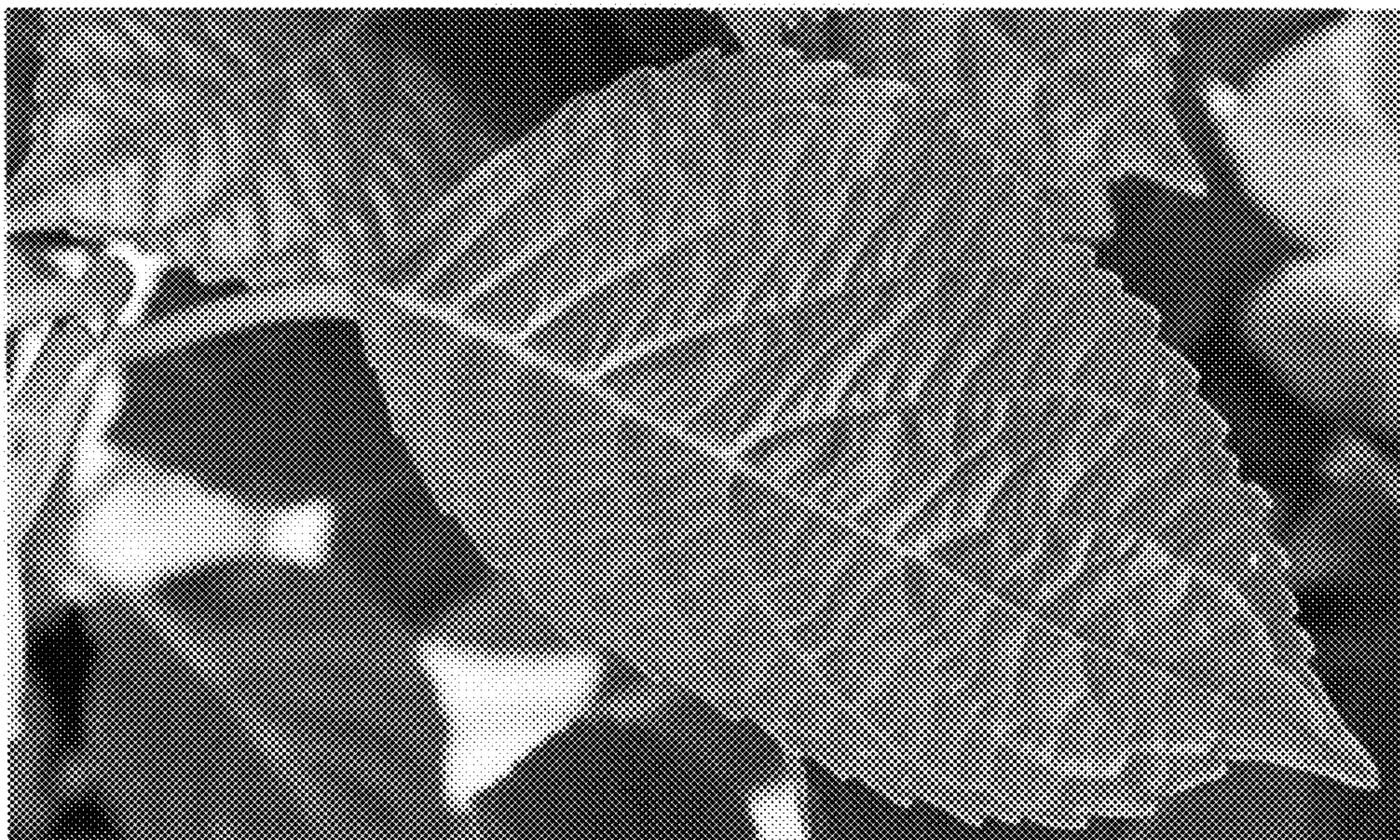


FIG. 3