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Wood

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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED**
‘SMNHPPINKA’

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea paniculata*
Varietal Denomination: **SMNHPPINKA**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(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 *Hydrangea* plant named ‘SMN-
HPPINKA’, characterized by its upright and somewhat out-
wardly spreading plant habit; strong and sturdy stems; freely
flowering habit; showy inflorescences with sterile flowers
that are initially white in color and becoming hot pink to red
in color; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Botanical designation: *Hydrangea paniculata*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘SMNHPPINKA’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct *Hydran-
gea* plant, botanically known as *Hydrangea paniculata* and
hereinafter referred to by the name ‘SMNHPPINKA’.

The new *Hydrangea* plant is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Grand Haven,
Mich. The objective of the breeding program was to develop
new early-flowering *Hydrangea* plants with strong stems and
large and attractive inflorescences.

The new *Hydrangea* plant originated from an open-poll-
ination in July, 2004 of *Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Little Lamb’,
disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,395, as the female, or seed
parent and an unknown selection of *Hydrangea paniculata* as
the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Hydrangea* 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 Grand Haven, Mich. in July,
2009.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hydrangea* plant by soft-
wood cuttings in a controlled environment in Grand Haven,
Mich. since June, 2010 has shown that the unique features of
this new *Hydrangea* plant are stable and reproduced true to
type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have not been observed under
all possible combinations of environmental conditions and
cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with
variations in environmental conditions such as temperature
and light intensity without, however, any variance in geno-
type.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘SMNHPP-

2

PINKA’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘SMNHPPINKA’ as a new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant:

1. Upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Strong and sturdy stems.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Showy inflorescences with sterile flowers that are ini-
tially white in color and becoming hot pink to red in
color.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ from plants of the
female parent, ‘Little Lamb’, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* are larger than plants of
‘Little Lamb’.
2. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have stronger stems than
plants of ‘Little Lamb’.
3. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* and ‘Little Lamb’ differ in
sterile flower color as plants of ‘Little Lamb’ have pink-
colored sterile flowers.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of
Hydrangea paniculata ‘Limelight’, disclosed in U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 12,874. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the
new *Hydrangea* differed primarily from plants of ‘Limelight’
in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were more compact than
plants of ‘Limelight’.
2. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* and ‘Limelight’ differed in
sterile flower color as plants of ‘Limelight’ had light
green-colored sterile flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
unique appearance of the new *Hydrangea* 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 from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Hydrangea plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'SMNHPPINKA' growing in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical fully developed inflorescence of 'SMNHPPINKA'. 5

Plants used in the photographs were three years old.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used for the following description were grown during the summer in three-gallon containers in a polypropylene-covered shadehouse in Grand Haven, Mich. and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Hydrangea* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 27° C. and night temperatures ranged from 5° C. to 10° C. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were two years old when the photographs and description were taken. Plants were overwintered in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse. 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 description: *Hydrangea paniculata* 'SMNHPPINKA'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Little Lamb', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,395.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Hydrangea paniculata*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—By softwood cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 18 days at temperatures about 24° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three months at temperatures about 24° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness; fibrous; creamy white to brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial deciduous shrub; upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant habit; broad inverted triangle; strong and sturdy lateral branches; freely branching habit with about 27 lateral branches developing per plant; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 65 cm.

Plant diameter or area of spread.—About 71.5 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 33 cm. Diameter: About 2 cm. Internode length: About 1 cm to 3 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, sturdy. Aspect: Erect to outwardly leaning. Color, developing and developed: Close to 200C.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 10 cm.

Width.—About 5.6 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Serrulate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A slightly overlain with close to 145B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A. Fully

expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 145A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; slight spotting, close to 165C; venation, close to 145C.

Petioles.—Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous.

Color, upper surface: Close to 145A. Color, lower surface: Close to 145C.

Inflorescence & flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single sterile and fertile flowers arranged on large terminal panicles; flowers face upright and outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Continuous flowering from mid-July until October in Grand Haven, Mich.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering habit; about 51 fertile flowers and about 150 sterile flowers develop per inflorescence.

Inflorescence height.—About 12.3 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 11.75 cm.

Flower diameter, fertile flowers.—About 3 mm.

Flower depth (height), fertile flowers.—About 2 mm.

Flower diameter, sterile flowers.—About 3.2 cm.

Flower depth (height), sterile flowers.—About 2.5 cm.

Flower buds, fertile flowers.—Length: About 3 mm.

Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Orbicular, lobed.

Color: Close to 155B tinted with close to 145C.

Flower buds, sterile flowers.—Length: About 1.2 mm.

Diameter: About 1.2 mm. Shape: Orbicular, lobed.

Color: Close to 155B overlain with close to 145C.

Petals, fertile flowers.—Arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 1.25 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 145A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145C; towards the margins, close to 145B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 145A; becoming closer to 145B with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 145B; becoming closer to 145C with development.

Petals, sterile flowers.—Arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 1.5 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Elliptic to ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Rounded to slightly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 145A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155C.

Sepals, fertile flowers.—Quantity per flower: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Fused. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 145A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145C. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 145A. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 145B.

Sepals, sterile flowers.—Quantity per flower: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 1.8 cm. Width: About 1.9 cm. Shape: Elliptical to obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Obtuse to slightly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 145A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145B. Fully opened,

upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155A; with development, color becoming closer to 66B and then fading to close to 178A.

Pedicels, fertile flowers.—Length: About 2.3 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: About 15° to 120° from inflorescence axis. Strength: Strong, sturdy. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: Close to 146A.

Pedicels, sterile flowers.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: Erect to about 45° from inflorescence axis. Strength: Strong, sturdy. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: Close to 146C.

Reproductive organs, fertile flowers.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About five. Filament length: About 0.75 mm. Filament color: Close to 145A. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 155A. Pollen amount: None observed. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 145A. Style length: About 0.75 mm. Style color: Close to 145A. Ovary color: Close to 155A and 145B.

Reproductive organs, sterile flowers.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About five. Filament length: About 0.75 mm. Filament color: Close to 145A. Anther

shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 155A. Pollen amount: None observed. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 145A. Style length: About 0.75 mm. Style color: Close to 145A. Ovary color: Close to 155A and 145B.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit development has not been observed on plants of the new *Hydrangea*.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been observed to have good garden performance by exhibiting good tolerance to rain and wind; to be resistant to sun scald; and to tolerate temperatures ranging from about −32° C. to about 36° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant named ‘SMNHP-PINKA’ as illustrated and described.

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