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Bernuetz

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(54) **EUPHORBIA PLANT NAMED ‘BONPRI 974’**

(50) Latin Name: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex
Klotzsch×*Euphorbia cornastra*
Varietal Denomination: **Bonpri 974**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(51) **Int. Cl.**
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./302**

(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 *Euphorbia* plant named
‘Bonpri 974’, characterized by its compact, upright and
mounded plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branch-
ing habit; dark green-colored leaves; inflorescences with
white-colored flower bracts; and good post-production lon-
gevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex
Klotzsch×*Euphorbia cornastra*.

Cultivar denomination: ‘BONPRI 974’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Euphorbia* plant, an interspecific hybrid botanically
known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotzsch×*Eu-*
phorbia cornastra, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name ‘Bonpri 974’.

The new *Euphorbia* plant is a product of a planned
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Yellow
Rock, New South Wales, Australia. The objective of the
program is to create and develop new interspecific *Euphor-*
bia plants with compact, upright and mounded plant habit
and attractive flower bracts.

The new *Euphorbia* plant is a naturally-occurring whole
plant mutation of an unnamed proprietary selection of
Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd. ex Klotzsch×*Euphorbia cor-*
nastra, not patented. The new *Euphorbia* plant was discov-
ered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant
from within a population of plants of the proprietary selec-
tion in a controlled greenhouse environment in Yellow Rock,
New South Wales, Australia in January, 2012.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Euphorbia* plant by
terminal vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse
environment in Yellow Rock, New South Wales, Australia
since February, 2012 has shown that the unique features of
this new *Euphorbia* plant are stable and reproduced true to
type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Euphorbia* have not been observed
under all possible combinations of environmental conditions
and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat

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with variations in environmental conditions such as tem-
perature, 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 ‘Bonpri
974’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Bon-
pri 974’ as a new and distinct *Euphorbia* plant:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Dark green-colored leaves.
5. Inflorescences with white-colored flower bracts.
6. Good post-production longevity.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Yellow Rock,
New South Wales, Australia, plants of the new *Euphorbia*
differ primarily from plants of the parent selection in flower
bract color as plants of the parent selection have off-white-
colored flower bracts that are tinged with pink and have
pink-colored venation.

Plants of the new *Euphorbia* can be compared to plants of
the *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotzsch×*Euphorbia*
cornastra ‘Bonpri 635’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
25,116. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Yellow
Rock, New South Wales, Australia, plants of the new
Euphorbia differed primarily from plants of ‘Bonpri 635’ in
the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Euphorbia* were more vigorous than
plants of ‘Bonpri 635’.
2. Plants of the new *Euphorbia* had smaller leaves than
plants of ‘Bonpri 635’.
3. Plants of the new *Euphorbia* had more inflorescences
than plants of ‘Bonpri 635’.
4. Plants of the new *Euphorbia* had larger inflorescences
with larger flower bracts than plants of ‘Bonpri 635’.
5. Plants of the new *Euphorbia* and ‘Bonpri 635’ differ in
flower bract color as plants of ‘Bonpri 635’ have

white-colored flower bracts that are tinged with pink and have red purple-colored venation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Euphorbia* 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 description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Euphorbia* plant.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bonpri 974' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of typical inflorescences of 'Bonpri 974'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and here-with described in detail were grown during the autumn in 12-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Euphorbia* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 23° C. and night temperatures averaged 13° C. Plants were four months old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, Fourth Edition, 2007, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotzsch×*Euphorbia cornastra* 'Bonpri 974'.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of an unnamed proprietary selection of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willd. ex Klotzsch×*Euphorbia cornastra*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at 18° C. to 25° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About twelve days at 16° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three weeks at 18° C. to 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About four weeks at 16° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant habit and form.—Compact, upright and mounded plant habit; inverted triangle; inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 20.7 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 28.3 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Branching habit: Freely branching habit, about seven lateral branches develop per plant. Length: About 13.7 cm. Diameter: About 3.8 mm. Internode length: About 2.5 cm. Aspect: Mostly upright to outwardly spreading. Strength: Strong. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: Close to 144A.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 6.2 cm. Width: About 4 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Wedge-shaped. Margin: Shallowly serrate. Venation pattern: Pinnate, reticu-

late. Texture, upper surface: Sparsely pubescent. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 143C. Fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to N137B; venation, close to N144D. Fully developed leaves, lower surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 145B. Petioles: Length: About 2.4 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144A; towards the base, slightly tinged with close to 199A.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence type and habit.—Inflorescences are compound corymbs of cyathia with numerous flower bracts subtending the cyathia; inflorescences positioned above the foliar plane.

Quantity of inflorescences.—About twelve inflorescences develop per plant.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 15.1 cm.

Inflorescence height.—About 2.5 cm.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants typically flower during the autumn and winter in Japan; inflorescence initiation and development can also be induced under artificial long nyctoperiod and short photoperiod conditions; early flowering habit, plants flower about seven weeks under natural season conditions in Japan.

Post-production longevity.—Good post-production longevity; plants of the new *Euphorbia* maintain good substance and bract color for about six weeks.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per inflorescence: About twelve. Length, largest bracts: About 8.8 cm. Width, largest bracts: About 4.5 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Rounded. Margin: Serrate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Wrinkled. Aspect: Mostly horizontal. Venation pattern: Pinnate, reticulate. Color: Transitional bracts, upper surface: Close to 155C and 137B. Transitional bracts, lower surface: Close to 155B and 138B. Developing bracts, upper surface: Close to 155B. Developing bracts, lower surface: Close to 155C. Fully expanded bracts, upper surface: Close to 155C; venation, close to N144D. Fully expanded bracts, lower surface: Close to 155C; venation, close to 145C. Flower bract petioles: Length: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to N144D.

Cyathia.—Quantity per corymb: About twelve. Diameter of cyathia cluster: About 1.9 cm. Height, individual cyathium: About 8.1 mm. Diameter, individual cyathium: About 4.4 mm. Shape, individual cyathium: Globose; sessile. Color: Close to 143A. Nectaries: Quantity per cyathium: One. Size: About 1.5 mm by 2.3 mm. Color: Close to 145C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2.3 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 144B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per cyathium: Numerous. Anther shape: Lanceolate or globose. Anther length: About 0.3 mm to 0.7 mm. Anther color: Close to 154B. Amount of pollen: None observed. Pistils: Plants of the new *Euphorbia*

have not been observed to develop pistils. Seeds and fruits: Seed and fruit production has not been observed on plants of the new *Euphorbia*.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Euphorbia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 8° C. to about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Euphorbia* plant named 'Bonpri 974' as illustrated and described.

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