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Jacobs

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- (54) **ALSTROEMERIA PLANT NAMED**
‘ZALSARAI’
- (50) Latin Name: *Alstroemeria hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Zalsarai**
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See application file for complete search history.
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- (57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct cultivar of *Alstroemeria* plant named
‘Zalsarai’, characterized by its erect and strong flowering
stems; vigorous growth habit; large dark red-colored flow-
ers; excellent postproduction longevity; and relative toler-
ance to high temperatures.
- 1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: *Alstroemeria hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘ZALSARAI’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Alstroemeria* plant, botanically known as *Alstroemeria*
hybrida, commercially used as a cut flower *Alstroemeria*,
and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Zalsarai’.

The new *Alstroemeria* plant is a product of a planned
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Rijnsenhout,
The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is
to create new cut flower *Alstroemeria* plants with desirable
flower and plant qualities, attractive and unique flower
coloration and excellent postproduction longevity.

The new *Alstroemeria* plant originated from a cross-
pollination made by the Inventor in Rijnsenhout, The Neth-
erlands in May, 2009 of a proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida*
selection identified as code number 52775-1, not patented,
as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary *Alstroeme-*
ria hybrida selection identified as code number 42713-11,
not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new
Alstroemeria plant was discovered and selected by the
Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny
of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse
environment in Rijnsenhout, The Netherlands in July, 2010.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Alstroemeria* plant by
rhizome divisions in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Rijnsenhout, The Netherlands since September, 2010 has
shown that the unique features of this new *Alstroemeria*
plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* have not been observed
under all possible combinations of environmental conditions

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and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat
with variations in environmental conditions such as tem-
perature 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 ‘Zalsarai’. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish ‘Zalsarai’ as a new and distinct *Alstroemeria* plant:

1. Erect and strong flowering stems.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Large dark red-colored flowers.
4. Excellent postproduction longevity.
5. Relatively tolerant to high temperatures.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Alstroeme-*
ria differ from plants of the female parent selection primarily
in flower color as the inner perianth lateral segments of
plants of the new *Alstroemeria* have small central yellow-
colored areas whereas the inner perianth lateral segments of
plants of the female parent selection have distinct central
white-colored areas.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria*
differ from plants of the male parent selection primarily in
flower color as the inner perianth lateral segments of plants
of the new *Alstroemeria* have small central yellow-colored
areas whereas the inner perianth lateral segments of plants of
the male parent selection have larger and distinct central
yellow-colored areas.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of *Alstroemeria hybrida* ‘Zalsanao’, disclosed in U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 20,836. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in
Rijnsenhout, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Alstroemeria*
differed primarily from plants of ‘Zalsanao’ in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had heavier flowering
stems than plants of ‘Zalsanao’.

2. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had narrower leaves than plants of 'Zalsanao'.
3. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had larger flowers than plants of 'Zalsanao'.
4. Inner perianth lateral segments of plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had fewer stripes than inner perianth lateral segments of 'Zalsanao'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Alstroemeria* 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 *Alstroemeria* plant.

The photograph comprises a close-up view of typical flowers of 'Zalsarai'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements describe plants of the new *Alstroemeria* grown during the mid to late summer in ground beds in a glass-covered greenhouse in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 15° C. to 25° C., night temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 15° C., soil temperatures averaged 15° C. and light levels averaged 5,000 lux. Plants were one year old when the photograph and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Alstroemeria hybrida* 'Zalsarai'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida* selection identified as code number 52775-1, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida* selection identified as code number 42713-11, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—In vitro rhizogenesis.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 40 days at temperatures of 16° C. to 25° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 60 days at temperatures of 16° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fleshy, thick; color, close to 155D.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Rhizomes.—Shape: Elongate; rounded. Length: About 10 cm to 30 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 10 mm. Texture: Smooth. Color: Close to 155D.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Upright; freely branching, bushy appearance; vigorous growth habit; rapid growth rate.

Plant height.—About 100 cm to 140 cm.

Plant diameter (spread).—About 25 cm to 30 cm.

Flowering stem description:

Aspect.—Erect.

Length.—About 120 cm to 126 cm.

Diameter.—About 6 mm to 8 mm.

Internode length.—About 1 cm to 12 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous.

Color.—Close to 139C.

Leaf description:

Appearance.—Leaves asymmetrical, simple; sessile.

Length.—About 10 cm to 19 cm.

Width.—About 1.9 cm to 2.8 cm.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire.

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

Luster, upper and lower surfaces.—Moderately glossy.

Venation pattern.—Parallel.

Color.—Developing and fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A; venation, close to 144B.

Developing and fully developed leaves, lower surface: Close to 138C; venation, close to 144A.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single cup-shaped flowers arranged in compound umbels; flowers face mostly outwardly; perianth segments separate; freely flowering habit, about 35 to 52 flower buds and open flowers developing per flowering stem.

Natural flowering season.—Flowering continuous during the spring in The Netherlands; plants begin flowering about 80 to 90 days after planting.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flower longevity.—About four weeks on the plant and about two to three weeks as a cut flower; flowers not persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Roughly ovoid. Color: Close to 184A.

Umbel height.—About 12 cm to 13.5 cm.

Umbel diameter.—About 18 cm to 21 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 7 cm to 8 cm.

Flower depth.—About 7 cm.

Perianth.—Arrangement: Six arranged in two whorls, each whorl with two lateral and one median segments. Inner perianth, lateral segments: Length: About 7.4 cm to 7.6 cm. Width: About 1.7 cm to 1.9 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Shallowly serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 42C; center, close to 162C; towards the apex (center), close to 47A; stripes, close to 183B. Color, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 47C. Inner perianth, median segment: Length: About 5.8 cm to 6.2 cm. Width: About 1.7 cm to 1.9 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Shallowly serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 42C; towards the apex, close to 47A. Color, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 47C. Outer perianth, lateral segments: Length: About 6.1 cm to 6.3 cm. Width: About 2.8 cm to 3 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Embedded point. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 47A. Color, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 46A. Outer perianth, median segment: Length: About 6.4 cm to 6.7 cm. Width: About 2.8

cm to 3 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Embedded point. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Shallowly serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 47A. Color, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 46A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 3 cm to 3.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 25° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 139C.

Reproductive structures.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Six. Anther shape: Elliptic. Anther length: About 8 mm. Anther color: Close to 184A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 189B. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Style length: About

4.5 cm. Style color: Close to 59C. Stigma color: Close to 59C. Ovary color: Close to 148A.

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

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 1° C. to about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Alstroemeria* plant named ‘Zalsarai’ as illustrated and described.

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