

US00PP32570P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP32,570 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 1, 2020**

(54) **RUDBECKIA PLANT NAMED ‘RUDLS291’**

(50) Latin Name: *Rudbeckia hirta*
Varietal Denomination: **RUDLS291**

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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 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/873,158**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 15, 2020**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 6, 2020 (QZ) PBR 2020/0005

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)

A01H 6/14 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./474**
CPC *A01H 6/14* (2018.05)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./474
CPC *A01H 5/02*
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Rudbeckia* plant named ‘RUDLS291’ that is characterized by its vigorous growth habit yet maintaining a compact plant habit, its inflorescences that are relatively small in size, and its inflorescence disks that are brown in color and ray florets that are yellow-orange in color.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Rudbeckia hirta*.
Variety denomination: ‘RUDLS291’.

CROSS REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to European Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) Plant Breeder’s Rights Application No. 2020/0005 filed on Jan. 6, 2020 under 35 U.S.C. 119(f), the entire contents of which is incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Rudbeckia hirta* and will hereafter be referred to by its cultivar name, ‘RUDLS291’. The new cultivar is an herbaceous perennial grown for use as a landscape plant.

‘RUDLS291’ was derived from a breeding program conducted by the Inventor at a nursery in Zuidwolde, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to select new cultivars of *Rudbeckia* with floriferous blooming habits and compact plant habits.

‘RUDLS291’ was selected in July of 2018 by the Inventor from amongst seedlings in a trial field that had been planted with seed derived from open pollination of numerous unpatented and unnamed proprietary plants from the Inventor’s breeding program in July of 2017. The exact parentage is therefore unknown.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accomplished under the direction of the Inventor by tissue culture using meristematic tissue in Heerhugowaard, The Netherlands in March of 2019. Asexual propagation by tissue culture has determined that the characteristics of the new cultivar are stable and are reproduced true to type in successive generations.

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STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY THE INVENTOR

The Applicant asserts that no publications or advertisements relating to sales, offers for sale, or public distribution occurred more than one year prior to the effective filing date of this application. Any information about the claimed plant would have been obtained from a direct or indirect disclosure from the Inventor. The Applicant claims a prior art exemption under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(1) for disclosure and/or sales prior to the filing date but less than one year prior to the effective filing date. Disclosure include but may not be limited to a website listing by AB-Cultivars (a company owned by the Inventor).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These attributes in combination distinguish ‘RUDLS291’ as a unique cultivar of *Rudbeckia*.

1. ‘RUDLS291’ exhibits a vigorous growth habit yet maintaining a compact plant habit.
2. ‘RUDLS291’ exhibits a very floriferous blooming habit.
3. ‘RUDLS291’ exhibits inflorescences that are relatively small in size.
4. ‘RUDLS291’ exhibits inflorescence disks that are brown in color and ray florets that are yellow-orange in color.

‘RUDLS291’ can be compared to the *Rudbeckia* cultivars ‘RUDSP123’ (not patented) and ‘RUDHT55’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 30,726). ‘RUDSP123’ is similar to ‘RUDLS291’ in inflorescence color. ‘RUDSP123’ differs from ‘RUDLS291’ in being taller in height and in having less spreading plant habit and inflorescences that are larger in diameter.

'RUDHT55' is similar to 'RUDLS291' in foliage shape and color. 'RUDHT55' differs from 'RUDLS291' in having a taller and less spreading plant habit, ray florets that are light grey-orange in color, and inflorescences that are larger in diameter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance and distinct characteristics of the new *Rudbeckia*. The photographs were taken of a 6-month-old plant of 'RUDLS291' as grown outdoors in a 17-cm container in Zuidwolde, The Netherlands.

The photograph in FIG. 1 is a side view of 'RUDLS291' in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of an inflorescence of 'RUDLS291'.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the foliage of 'RUDLS291'.

The colors in the photographs are as close as possible with the photographic and printing technology utilized and the color values cited in the detailed botanical description accurately describe the colors of the new *Rudbeckia*.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of 6-month-old plants of 'RUDLS291' as grown outdoors in 17-cm containers in Zuidwolde, The Netherlands. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all possible environmental conditions. The color determination is in accordance with The 2015 Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

General description:

Blooming period.—Average of 13 weeks from early summer to late summer in The Netherlands.

Plant type.—Perennial.

Plant habit.—Broad, upright, compact.

Plant shape.—Flattened globular.

Height and spread.—Average of 28 cm in height from soil level to top of foliar plane and 28.9 cm in height from soil level to top of floral plane, 50 cm in diameter.

Hardiness.—At least in U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 10.

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

Root description.—Fine and fibrous.

Propagation.—Tissue culture.

Root development.—An average of 3 weeks for root initiation with a young rooted plant produced in an average of 6 weeks.

Growth rate and vigor.—Moderate to high.

Stem description:

Stem shape.—Moderately angled.

Stem color.—Young stems; 145A, mature stems; 146D.

Stem size.—An average of 4 mm in diameter and an average of 18.3 cm in length.

Stem surface.—Moderately glossy and densely covered with strigose hairs an average of 1 mm in length and close to NN155D in color.

Stem number.—Average of 20 main stems, 4 lateral branches per main stem.

Internode length.—An average of 2.6 cm in length.

Stem aspect.—Main stems an average angle of 30° to vertical, lateral branches in an average angle of 25° to main stems.

Branching.—Freely branching from base with lateral stems, strong.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Narrow ovate to narrow elliptic.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Long cuneate.

Leaf apex.—Bluntly acute to narrowly obtuse.

Leaf venation.—Pinnate, color upper surface 148C, color lower surface 146C.

Leaf margins.—Un-deeply coarsely serrate, coarsely slightly undulate.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate.

Leaf size.—Average of 12.7 cm in length and 3.7 cm in width.

Leaf color.—Young upper surface; 138A and 143A, young lower surface; 146B, mature upper surface; 137B, mature lower surface; 146B.

Leaf surface.—Upper surface very slightly glossy, rough to touch, lower surface is matte, slightly rugose, rough to touch, both surfaces densely pubescent with short strigose hairs; an average of 1.5 mm in length and NN155D in color.

Petioles.—Average of 5 mm in length, 4 mm in diameter, both surfaces slightly glossy and densely covered with strigose hairs, average of 1.5 mm in length, NN155D in color, upper surface color 145B, lower surface color 146D.

Flower description:

Type.—Terminal capitulum, consisting of ray florets and disk florets.

Capitulum number.—1 per stem, up to 140 per plant.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—Average of 2 weeks, persistent.

Capitulum size.—Matures to about 3.3 cm in height and 7.2 cm in diameter, disk is an average of 2.3 cm in diameter.

Fragrance.—None.

Involucral bracts (phyllaries).—Broadly cuneate base, obtuse to bluntly acute apex, oblanceolate to narrow oblong in shape, entire margins, average of 32 arranged in two rows, 2.2 cm in length and 5 mm in width, color; upper surface when fully open 143A, lower surface when fully open 138B, both surfaces and margins matte and densely covered with strigose hairs; an average of 1 mm in length and NN155D in color.

Receptacle.—Ovate in shape, an average of 1.2 cm in height, 8 mm in diameter, 157D in color.

Buds.—Globular in shape, immature ray florets pointed upward and curling inward, up to 2 cm in length and 4.6 cm in diameter, color; immature ray florets 153C, upper side of immature involucral bracts 143A, under side 138B, involucral bracts and immature ray florets densely covered with strigose hairs; average of 5 mm in length and 153D in color with hairs adpressed on immature ray florets.

Peduncle.—Strong, straight on top of main flowering stem, average of 6.1 cm in length and 4.5 mm in diameter, color; 144A, axially striped 143A to 143B,

surface moderately glossy and densely covered with short strigose hairs; an average of 1 mm in length and NN155D in color.

Ray florets.—Average of 19 (varying between 14 and 29), rotate around the disk, oblong and moderately carinate in shape, average of 3.2 cm in length and 1.2 cm in width, 3-lobed apex, apices of lobes narrowly carinate, cuneate base, entire margins, both surfaces are velvety, matte and glabrous, both surfaces moderately covered with very short adpressed strigose hairs, average of 3 mm in length and 12C in color, held near horizontal, color; when opening upper surface; 14A, changing to 17A at base, upper half 17A, when opening lower surface; 12A to 12B, when fully open upper surface and veins; 17B, changing to 23A at the base, when fully open lower surface; 13A, changing to 15A at the base, veins 15B, changing to 153C.

Disk florets.—Average of 800, tubular, 22 whorls arranged spirally on a conical receptacle, lower 90% fused into tube, upper 10% free, about 6 mm in length and 3 mm in width, free lobes have entire margins and are curled backwards, both surfaces glabrous and slightly glossy, color; when opening

upper and lower surface; top 200A, mid-section between N186C and N200A, base 155A, when fully open upper and lower surface; top 200A, mid-section in between N186C and N200A, base 196D, spines; none, bracts; 1 per disk floret, soft, flattened, an average of 5.5 mm in length and 0.75 mm in diameter, oblanceolate in shape, acute apex, narrow cuneate base, color apex; 145A, mid-section; 145B to 145C, base 145D.

10 Reproductive organs:

Gynoecium.—Pistil; 1, 5 mm in length, style; 3 mm in length, color; 200A, mid-section 187A, base 155C, stigma; cleft, decurrent, 3 mm in diameter, 200A in color, ovary; NN155A in color.

Androecium.—Stamens; 5, filaments; 2 mm in length, 158D in color, anther; narrow oblong in shape, 2 mm in length, 0.5 mm in width, 200A in color, pollen; very low in quantity and 14A in color.

Fruit/seed.—None observed to date.

20 It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Rudbeckia* plant named 'RUDLS291' substantially as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

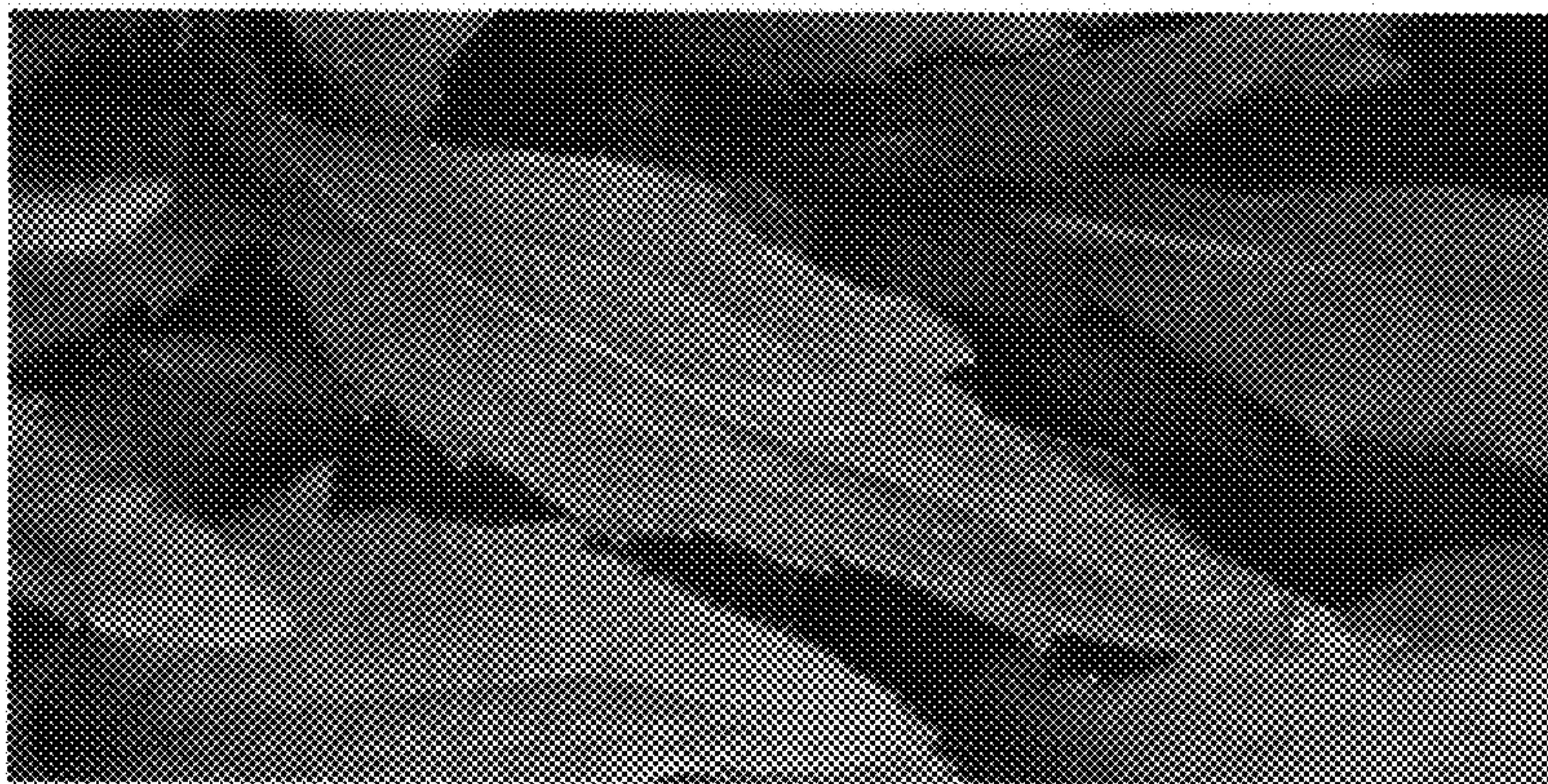


FIG. 3