



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

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(54) **ASTILBE PLANT NAMED ‘YOUANDME TOGETHER’**

(50) Latin Name: *Astilbe chinensis*
Varietal Denomination: **Youandme Together**

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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.

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USPC **Plt./407**
CPC *A01H 6/80* (2018.05)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./407
CPC *A01H 6/80*
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV hit on *Astilbe* plant named, ‘Youandme Together’, QZ PBR 20200330, filed Jan. 30, 2020, published Apr. 16, 2020.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Astilbe* plant named ‘Youandme Together’, characterized by its broadly upright and mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; dense and bushy appearance; dark green-colored leaves; freely and uniformly flowering habit; white-colored flowers on strong, tall and upright peduncles; and good container and garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Astilbe chinensis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘YOUANDME TOGETHER’.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION AND STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY INVENTOR/APPLICANT

This application claims priority to a European Community Plant Breeders’ Rights application filed on Jan. 30, 2020, application number 20200330. There have been no offers for sale anywhere in the world prior to the effective filing date of this Application and no accessibility to one of ordinary skill in the art could have been derived from the printed Plant Breeder’s Rights documents.

The Inventor/Applicant asserts that no publications nor 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. 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.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Astilbe*, botanically known as *Astilbe chinensis* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Youandme Together’.

The new *Astilbe* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Heemskerk, The

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Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to create new uniform and freely flowering *Astilbe* plants with attractive leaf and flower coloration.

The new *Astilbe* plant originated from a cross-pollination in 2013 in Heemskerk, The Netherlands, of two unidentified *Astilbe chinensis* seedling selections. The new *Astilbe* 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 Heemskerk, The Netherlands during the summer of 2015.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Astilbe* plant by vegetative divisions in a controlled nursery environment in Heemskerk, The Netherlands since December, 2015, has shown that the unique features of this new *Astilbe* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Astilbe* 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 genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Youandme Together’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Youandme Together’ as a new and distinct *Astilbe* plant:

1. Broadly upright and mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Dense and bushy appearance.

4. Dark green-colored leaves.
5. Freely and uniformly flowering habit.
6. White-colored flowers on strong, tall and upright peduncles.
7. Good container and garden performance.

Plants of the new *Astilbe* differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in plant habit as plants of the new *Astilbe* are more compact than plants of the parent selections. In addition, inflorescences of plants of the new *Astilbe* are longer and broader than inflorescences of plants of the parent selections.

Plants of the new *Astilbe* can be compared to plants of *Astilbe chinensis* 'Vision in White', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,965. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Astilbe* and 'Vision in White' differ primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Astilbe* are shorter than plants of 'Vision in White'.
2. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Astilbe* are smaller than inflorescences of plants of 'Vision in White'.
3. Flowers of plants of the new *Astilbe* are pure white in color whereas flowers of plants of 'Vision in White' are more creamy white in color.

Plants of the new *Astilbe* can also be compared to plants of *Astilbe chinensis* 'Milk and Honey', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Astilbe* and 'Milk and Honey' differ primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Astilbe* are shorter and bushier than plants of 'Milk and Honey'.
2. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Astilbe* are smaller than inflorescences of plants of 'Milk and Honey'.
3. Flowers of plants of the new *Astilbe* are pure white in color whereas flowers of plants of 'Milk and Honey' are more creamy white in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Astilbe* 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 *Astilbe* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet (FIG. 1 of 2) is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Youandme Together' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet (FIG. 2 of 2) is a close-up view of typical inflorescences of 'Youandme Together'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the late summer in 1.9-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Heemskerk, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Astilbe* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 20° C. to 40° C. and night temperatures ranged from 8° C. to 24° C. Plants were one year old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Astilbe chinensis* 'Youandme Together'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unidentified *Astilbe chinensis* seedling selection, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unidentified *Astilbe chinensis* seedling selection, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative divisions.

Time to initiate roots.—About three weeks at temperatures about 20° C.

Root description.—Thick, fleshy; typically brown in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; broadly upright and mounding plant form with inflorescences held above the foliar plane; flowering stems and leaves basal; freely flowering with numerous basal branches developing per plant, dense and bushy; vigorous growth habit; and freely and uniformly flowering habit.

Growth rate.—Moderately rapid to rapid; from divisions, about three months are required to produce fully-grown flowering plants in containers.

Plant height (soil level to top of foliar plane).—About 40.2 cm.

Plant height (soil level to top of inflorescences).—About 60.5 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 70 cm.

Stem description.—Length: About 32.1 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 7.8 cm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect to about 7.5° from vertical. Texture and luster: Moderately pubescent; moderately glossy. Color, developing: Close to 144B. Color, developed: Close to 144A.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate; biternately compound; on average, about 41 leaflets per leaf.

Leaf length (excluding petiole).—About 29.2 cm.

Leaf width.—About 28.6 cm.

Terminal leaflet length.—About 8.1 cm.

Terminal leaflet width.—About 4.3 cm.

Lateral leaflet length.—About 6.3 cm.

Lateral leaflet width.—About 3.2 cm.

Leaf shape, in outline.—Broadly ovate to deltoid.

Leaflet shape.—Broadly elliptic to obovate and ovate.

Leaflet apex.—Apiculate.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate to short attenuate.

Leaflet margin.—Biserrate; not undulate.

Leaflet texture and luster, upper surface.—Moderately pubescent; matte.

Leaflet texture and luster, lower surface.—Moderately pubescent; slightly glossy.

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaflets, upper surface: Close to between 144A and 144B. Developing leaflets, lower surface: Close to 144A. Fully expanded leaflets, upper surface: Close to NN137A; venation, close to 144A. Fully expanded leaflets, lower surface: Close to between 146A and 147B; venation, close to 146D.

Leaf petiole length.—About 29.7 cm.

Leaf petiole diameter.—About 2.75 mm.

Leaf and leaflet petiole strength.—Strong.

Leaf and leaflet petiole texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces.—Sparsely pubescent; moderately glossy.

Leaf and leaflet petiole color, upper surface.—Close to 144A; at the nodes, tinged with close to 183A.

Leaf and leaflet petiole color, lower surface.—Close to 144B.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single rotate flowers arranged on terminal compound panicles; flowers face upright, outward or downward depending on position on the inflorescence; panicles conical in shape; freely and uniformly flowering habit with about 2,000 flowers developing per inflorescence and about 14,000 flowers developing per plant during the flowering season.

Fragrance.—Faint; sweet and slightly moldy; pleasant.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about 13 weeks after planting; continuously flowering from late spring until late summer in The Netherlands.

Postproduction longevity.—Flowers last about ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower buds.—Height: About 2.25 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Shape: Broadly ovate. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Sepals, close to 145A and petals, close to NN155B.

Inflorescence height.—About 27.3 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 12.3 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 1.7 cm.

Flower depth.—About 6 mm.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Typically five in a single whorl. Length: About 8 mm. Width: About 0.9 mm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Narrowly cuneate. Margin: Entire; not undulate. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Developing petals, upper and lower surfaces: Lighter than NN155D. Fully expanded petals, upper and lower surfaces: Lighter than NN155D; color does not change with development.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Typically five in a single whorl, lower 30% fused towards the base forming a

campanulate-shaped calyx. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Bluntly acute. Base: Cuneate, fused. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Developing sepals, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145D. Fully expanded sepals, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155B; colors do not change with development.

Peduncles.—Length: About 27 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Angle: Mostly erect. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster: Densely pubescent; slightly glossy. Color: Close to 145C to 145D.

Pedicels.—Length: About 0.75 mm. Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Angle: About 45° from peduncle axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster: Densely pubescent; matte. Color: Close to 155B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Typically 15; anthers basifixed. Filament length: About 3.5 mm. Filament color: Close to NN155C. Anther shape: Broadly ovate. Anther length: About 0.4 mm. Anther diameter: About 0.25 mm. Anther color: Close to 155A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 155C. Pistils: Quantity per flower: Two. Pistil length: About 1.75 mm. Stigma diameter: About 0.1 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 155A. Style length: About 1.7 mm. Style color: Close to NN155C. Ovary color: Close to NN155A.

Seeds and fruits.—To date, seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Astilbe*.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Astilbe* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Astilbe* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Astilbe* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate rain, wind, temperatures ranging from about -25° to 35° C. and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 through 10.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Astilbe* plant named 'Youandme Together' as illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

