



US00PP33035P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
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(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP33,035 P2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 4, 2021**

(54) **PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES PLANT**  
**NAMED 'LOVE AND ROCKETS'**

(50) Latin Name: *Pennisetum alopecuroides*  
Varietal Denomination: **Love and Rockets**

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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.: **16/974,202**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 16, 2020**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*A01H 5/12* (2018.01)  
*A01H 6/46* (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **Plt./384**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... Plt./384  
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new, distinct *Pennisetum alopecuroides* plant as shown  
and described, characterized by thick greyed-purple inflo-  
rescences on 74 cm stems that start in late August in northern  
Illinois.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Latin name: *Pennisetum alopecuroides*.  
Cultivar name: 'Love and Rockets'.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new form of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* plant named 'Love and Rockets'. 'Love and Rockets' is a seedling of an unnamed *Pennisetum alopecuroides*, not patented, characterized by thick greyed-purple inflorescences on 74 cm stems that start in late August in northern Illinois. The new plant is the result of a breeding program taking place at a wholesale perennial nursery since 2001. The seedling was grown by the inventor at a wholesale perennial nursery in Hebron, Ill. in 2018. The selection of the new plant was due to its thick greyed-purple inflorescences on 74 cm stems that start in late August in northern Illinois. Asexual, vegetative division propagation has been the only means of reproduction. Propagation has taken place at a wholesale perennial nursery Hebron, Ill. in 2011. To date these plants have remained uniform in height. The new *Pennisetum* has shown to be stable and identical in reproduction to the parent after making over 500 vegetative divisions from 2018 to 2019. No plants of the new *Pennisetum alopecuroides* have been sold in this country, or anywhere in the world, prior to the filing of this application, nor has any disclosure of the new plant been made prior to the filing of this application with the exception of that which was disclosed by the inventor and his company, Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Inc within one year of filing of this application and was derived directly from the inventor.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. The new *Pennisetum alopecuroides* plant named 'Love and Rockets' has shown the characteristic of thick greyed-purple inflorescences on 74 cm stems that start in early September in northern Illinois.

The parent plants were not available for comparison. Plants of the new *Pennisetum* can be compared to plants of

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*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head', not patented. 1. The new *Pennisetum* has a height of 74 cm compared to the height of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head' which has a height of 120 cm. 2. The new *Pennisetum* has an inflorescence length of 15 cm compared to *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Red Head' which has an inflorescence length of 20 cm.

Plants of the new *Pennisetum* can be compared to plants of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' not patented. 1. The new *Pennisetum* has a height of 74 cm compared to the height of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' which has a height of 90 cm. 2. The new *Pennisetum* has an inflorescence length of 15 cm compared to *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' which has an inflorescence length of 10 cm. 3. The new *Pennisetum* has a greyed-purple inflorescence color compared to *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' which has a tan inflorescence color.

Plants of the new *Pennisetum* can be compared to plants of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Moudry', not patented. 1. The new *Pennisetum* has a height of 74 cm compared to the height of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Moudry' which has a height closer to 60 cm. 2. The new *Pennisetum* has a late August bloom time compared to *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Moudry' which typically blooms in October.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

FIG. 1. Shows a mature plant in Zeeland, Mich. USA.

FIG. 2. Shows a close up of the flowers in Hebron, Ill. USA.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (2001). The plant herein described is a one year old, three gallon specimen grown in full sun and irrigated in Hebron, Ill.

Botanical classification: *Pennisetum alopecuroides* cultivar 'Love and Rockets'.

Parentage: *Pennisetum alopecuroides* unnamed seedling selections.

Propagation: Vegetative division.

Plant description: Overall habit of the new *Pennisetum* is strongly clumping mounds with upright stems topped by greyed-purple colored inflorescences in early September.

Vigor is moderate to fast.

*Plant height*.—74 cm.

*Plant width*.—65 cm.

*Stem diameter*.—7 mm.

*Stem color*.—147 B.

Foliage:

*Type*.—Deciduous, grass growing in culms.

*Shape*.—Blade.

*Petiole*.—None.

*Blade length*.—28 cm average, ranging from 16-59 cm.

*Width*.—8 mm.

*Adaxial leaf description*.—The leaf color is green color close 137 B.

*Abaxial leaf description*.—The leaf color is green color 147 A.

*Basal leaf sheath color*.—close to 147 B.

*Leaf sheath*.—Glabrous.

*Auricles*.—Not present.

*Ligules*.—As wide as the leaf blade, up to 1 mm tall, color close to 147 B.

*Collars*.—Continuous, as wide as the leaf blade, less than 1 mm tall, color close to 147 B. Leafbuds are folded in the bud stage.

*Rhizomes or stolons*.—None. The attitude of the tiller on the culm is erect, 20 degrees from the culm. The culm node is glabrous and color at the node is close to 147 B.

*Internode*.—Length 15-20 cm 0.3-5 cm short at base, avg 20 cm above that.

*Culm diameter and color at the internode*.—7 mm, close to 147 B.

*Fall leaf color*.—Mostly green 137 B with some 187 A fall color at the tips.

Flower inflorescence:

*Number of spike bearing tillers in the culmus*.—51.

*Inflorescence type*.—Terminal bristled spike.

*Floret color*.—N186 A.

*Individual floret size*.—1-2 mm across, 7 mm tall.

*Anther coloration and size*.—183 C, 5 mm long, 0.5-1 mm wide.

*Stigma color and size*.—Close to 155 C, 11 mm long, 0.5 mm wide.

*Glume color and size*.—Close to 186 A, 2 mm, less than 1 mm wide.

*Bristle size*.—20 mm long, less than 1 mm wide.

*Bristle color*.—186 A.

*Caryopsis color*.—145 A, shape — elliptic.

*Overall inflorescence spike size*.—5 cm wide, 11 cm long.

*Flower number*.—Approximately 115 florets per mature spike measuring 5 cm wide, 11 cm long.

*Fertility*.—Self-fertile, Fertile with 3 Anthers and 3 Stamens, 1 Stigma.

*Blooming habit*.—Terminal bristled spike on up to 74 cm stems.

*Bloom period and duration*.—Late August into October.

*Scent*.—No scent noticed.

*Bloom color overall*.—N186 A.

*Roots*.—Stiff, fibrous, and freely branching.

*Fruit*.—Seed identical to the species except size is a slightly smaller.

Disease resistance: Plants are not susceptible to any major pests or diseases.

I claim:

1. A new, distinct *Pennisetum alopecuroides* plant as shown and described, characterized by thick greyed-purple inflorescences on 74 cm stems that start in late August in northern Illinois.

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FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.