



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

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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED ‘LC NO14’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea paniculata*  
Varietal Denomination: **LC NO14**

(71) Applicant: **Alex Frederick Schoemaker**, Boskoop (NL)

(72) Inventor: **Alex Frederick Schoemaker**, Boskoop (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Alex Schoemaker Living Creations Holding B.V.**, Boskoop (NL)

(\*) 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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*A01H 5/02* (2018.01)  
*A01H 6/48* (2018.01)

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USPC ..... **Plt./250**  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Keith O. Robinson  
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — C. Anne Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named ‘LC NO14’, characterized by its upright to outwardly spreading and uniform plant habit; freely branching habit with strong lateral branches; early and freely flowering habit with plants remaining in flower for a long period time; hardy inflorescences with large white-colored sterile flowers; and good garden performance.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Hydrangea paniculata*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘LC NO14’.

CROSS-REFERENCED TO CLOSELY RELATED APPLICATIONS

Title: Varieties of *Hydrangea* Plants  
Inventor/Applicant: Alex Frederick Schoemaker  
Provisional application Ser. No. 62/973,658  
Filed: Oct. 17, 2019  
Inventor/Applicant hereby claim the benefit of this provisional U.S. Patent Application.

STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY INVENTOR/APPLICANT

An European Community Plant Breeder’s Rights application for the instant plant was filed by the Inventor/Assignee, Mr. Alex Frederick Schoemaker of Boskoop, The Netherlands on Oct. 19, 2018, application number 2018/2642. Foreign priority is not claimed to this application.

The Inventor/Applicant and Assignee assert 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 and/or the Assignee. Inventor/Applicant and Assignee claim 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 *Hydrangea* plant, botanically known as *Hydrangea pan-*

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*iculata*, commercially referred to as a Hardy or Panicked *Hydrangea* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘LC NO14’.

The new *Hydrangea* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Boskoop, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create new *Hydrangea* plants with uniform plant habit and attractive inflorescences.

The new *Hydrangea* plant originated from a self-pollination made by the Inventor in July, 2013 in Boskoop, The Netherlands, of *Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Limelight’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,874. The new *Hydrangea* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated self-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Boskoop, The Netherlands in July, 2017.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hydrangea* plant by vegetative tip cuttings in a controlled environment in Boskoop, The Netherlands since August, 2017 has shown that the unique features of this new *Hydrangea* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* 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 ‘LC NO14’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘LC NO14’ as a new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant:

1. Upright to outwardly spreading and uniform plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit with strong lateral branches.
3. Early and freely flowering habit with plants remaining in flower for a long period time.
4. Hardy inflorescences with large white-colored sterile flowers.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the parent, 'Limelight'. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of 'Limelight' in sterile flower coloration as sterile flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea* are white becoming purplish pink in color with development whereas sterile flowers of plants of 'Limelight' are light green in color.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Vanille Fraise', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of 'Vanille Fraise' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have stronger and sturdier lateral branches than plants of 'Vanille Fraise'.
2. Sterile flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea* become more intense purplish pink in color with development than sterile flowers of plants of 'Vanille Fraise'.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the unique appearance of the new *Hydrangea* 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 from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Hydrangea* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'LC NO14' grown in a container.

The photographs on the second sheet are close-up views of typical inflorescences (top of sheet) and a typical leaf (bottom of sheet) of 'LC NO14'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description were grown during the late summer in 21-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Boskoop, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Hydrangea* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from about 16° C. to 35° C. and night temperatures ranged from about 12° C. to 22° C. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were pinched one time and were two years old when the photographs and description were taken. As a Hardy or Panicked *Hydrangea*, plants of the new *Hydrangea* are typically not treated with aluminum sulfate to "blue" the inflorescences. 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 description: *Hydrangea paniculata* 'LC NO14'.  
Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,874.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—*Hydrangea paniculata* disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,874.

#### Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—By vegetative tip cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About 16 days at temperatures about 16° C. to 30° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About 120 days at temperatures about 16° C. to 30° C.

*Root description.*—Medium in thickness, fibrous; typically light brown in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

#### Plant description:

*Plant and growth habit.*—Upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and uniform plant habit; overall plant shape, upright to narrowly inverted triangular; strong and sturdy stems; moderately vigorous growth habit and moderate to high growth rate.

*Plant height.*—About 80.3 cm.

*Plant diameter or area of spread.*—About 56 cm.

#### Lateral branch description:

*Branching habit.*—About seven lateral branches develop per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development.

*Length.*—About 56.1 cm.

*Diameter.*—About 5 mm.

*Internode length.*—About 7 cm.

*Texture.*—When developing, sparsely pubescent; fully developed, woody.

*Aspect.*—Upright to about 27.50° from vertical.

*Strength.*—Strong, sturdy.

*Color.*—When developing: Upper surface, close to between 177D and 195A; lower surface, close to 145C. Developed: Close to 178A; proximally, close to 200D; when woody, close to 199A to 199B.

*Lenticels.*—Density: Sparse; none observed on developing stems. Size, developed stems: About 1.5 mm by 0.75 mm. Color, developed stems: Close to 165C.

#### Leaf description:

*Arrangement.*—Opposite or in whorls of three, simple.

*Length.*—About 8.8 cm.

*Width.*—About 5.6 cm.

*Shape.*—Ovate.

*Apex.*—Apiculate.

*Base.*—Rounded.

*Margin.*—Serrate; coarsely undulate.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Sparsely pubescent; slightly rough.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Color.*—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B. Fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A; venation, close to 146C. Fully developed leaves, lower surface: Close to between 138B and 147C; venation, close to 193A.

*Petioles.*—Length: About 2.6 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Texture and luster, upper surface: Sparsely pubescent; matte. Texture and luster, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color, upper surface: Close to 173D; towards the edges, close to 173A. Color, lower surface: Close to 199C.

#### Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Showy sterile flowers and smaller inconspicuous fertile flowers arranged on terminal panicles; panicles dense and broadly conical.

cal in shape; sterile flowers face upright to outwardly and slightly drooping depending on their position in the inflorescence; fertile flowers face mostly upright.

*Fragrance*.—None detected.

*Natural flowering season*.—Flowering begins in the 5  
midsummer and is continuous until late summer in Northern Europe.

*Flower longevity*.—Sterile flowers last about six weeks on the plant, sterile flowers persistent; fertile flowers 10  
last about five days on the plant, fertile flowers not persistent.

*Quantity of flowers*.—Freely flowering habit; about 425 sterile flowers and about 200 fertile flowers per panicle.

*Panicle height*.—About 18 cm. 15

*Panicle diameter*.—About 14.3 cm.

*Sterile flower buds*.—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 cm. Shape: Broadly cup-shaped. Color: Close to 150D.

*Fertile flower buds*.—Length: About 3.5 mm. Diameter: 20  
About 3 mm. Shape: Broadly obovate. Color: Close to 145C; immature calyx, close to 145B.

*Sterile flower diameter*.—About 3.4 cm.

*Sterile flower depth (height)*.—About 8 mm.

*Fertile flower diameter*.—About 9 mm. 25

*Fertile flower depth (height)*.—About 9 mm.

*Petals, sterile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: Four or occasionally five arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 3 mm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Shape: 30  
Ovate, concave. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Texture and luster, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to NN155D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: 35  
Close to NN155D; color does not change with development.

*Petals, fertile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: Five arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ovate, concave. 40  
Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Texture and luster, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to NN155D to lighter 45  
than NN155D; color does not change with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to NN155D; color does not change with development.

*Sepals, sterile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: 50  
Typically four or occasionally five arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1.8 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Shape: Broadly obovate; slightly concave. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, 55  
glabrous; matte. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to NN155B. When opening, lower surface: Close to NN155C. Fully opened, upper surface:

Slightly lighter than 150D; with subsequent development, color becoming closer to between 61D and 62B. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 157C; with subsequent development, color becoming closer to 65D and towards the margins and apex, close to 62C.

*Sepals, fertile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 1.25 mm. Shape: Broadly deltoid. Apex: Broadly acuminate. Base: Broadly cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to between 145D and 150D; color does not change with development.

*Pedicels, sterile flowers*.—Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: About 45° from branch axis. Texture and luster: Moderately pubescent; matte. Color: Close to 157D.

*Pedicels, fertile flowers*.—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: About 20° from vertical. Texture and luster: Densely pubescent; matte. Color: Close to 150D.

*Reproductive organs, sterile flowers*.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About eight. Filament length: About 2 mm. Filament color: Close to 155C. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther shape: Broadly oblong. Anther color: Close to 155D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 161D. Pistils: To date, pistil development has not been observed on sterile flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea*.

*Reproductive organs, fertile flowers*.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About ten. Filament length: About 6 mm. Filament color: Close to NN155D. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther shape: Broadly oblong. Anther color: Close to 160D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 156A. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: Typically three or occasionally two. Pistil length: About 1.5 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 157D. Style length: About 0.75 mm. Style color: Close to between 150D and 157D. Ovary color: Close to between 150D and 157C.

*Seeds*.—To date, seed production has not been observed on plants of the new *Hydrangea*.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, under commercial production conditions, plants of the new *Hydrangea* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Hydrangea* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been observed have good garden performance and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 through 9.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant named 'LC NO14' as illustrated and described.

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