



US00PP12349P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP12,349 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 8, 2002**

(54) *CAMELLIA ROSTHORNIANA* PLANT NAMED
'ELINA'

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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.: **09/599,684**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 22, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./244**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./243, 244**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new plant variety of *Camellia rosthorniana* characterized
by its upright growth habit and large flowers with reddish-
pink colored outer petals.

4 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of *Camellia rosthorniana*, which was discovered in 1991 as
a seedling selection in a controlled planting of *Camellia*
rosthorniana (unpatented) in Kawasguchi City, Japan. The
varietal denomination of the new variety is 'ELINA'.

The genus *Camellia* is included in the family Theaceae
which comprises about 25 genera shrubs and trees, mostly
tropical and subtropical in origin, and native to the northern
and southern hemispheres. *Camellia* comprises more than 80
species of evergreen shrubs or trees, many of which possess
desirable ornamental characteristics.

Camellia rosthorniana Hand.-Mazz (1925) is a shrub
growing 3 m tall, generally having narrow to broad elliptic
leaves with blunt to long acuminate apices, 2.5 to 4.2 cm
long and 9 to 18 mm wide. Flowers are white, pedicellate,
1.1 to 1.4 cm across, with 5 to 7 petals. *Camellia rosthor-*
niana is a shrub widespread and common throughout
Guizhou and Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan Provinces, China.
The plant is evergreen. Leaf color is dark green depending
on light intensity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as a seedling in a
controlled planting of *Camellia rosthorniana* and differs
from its parent in having pink flower buds as well as pink at
the base of the encasing exterior flower petals, and larger
flowers and an upright growth habit with significantly
smaller leaves than the species. Asexual reproduction of the
new variety by stem cuttings performed in Saitama
Prefecture, Japan; Lewisberry, Pa.; Vacaville, Calif.; Irvine,
Calif.; and Fulshear, Tex.; have confirmed that the distinc-
tive characteristics of the new variety are stable and trans-
mitted to succeeding generations.

COMPARISON WITH PARENT

'ELINA' is distinguished from its parent and all other
varieties of *Camellia rosthorniana* of which I am aware in
its production of attractive pink buds and flowers with
reddish-pink colored outer petals, as well as larger flowers
and smaller leaves than the parent.

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DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the
new variety in photographic illustration as true to color as is
reasonably possible to make in illustrations of this character.

FIG. 1 illustrates the variety in bloom and the upright
growth habit and the distinct pink inflorescence;

FIG. 2 illustrates the flower bud with the pink coloration
when closed as well as the smaller leaf and open flower front
view in approximate scale of the flower bud to the plant;

FIG. 3 illustrates the flower parts and shows that the outer
flower petals have pink coloration while the inner ones only
exhibit a slight pink coloration, but are primarily white; and

FIG. 4 illustrates the flower bud when open with the pink
coloration of the outer flower petals.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW
VARIETY**

'ELINA' has not been observed under all possible
environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following
observations and descriptions are of 2-year-old plants, in
5-gallon nursery containers, grown in an unheated green-
house under 70% shade during summer months, in a pro-
duction nursery setting in Vacaville, Calif. In this
description, color references are to The Royal Horticultural
Society Colour Chart (1995) and terminology used in the
color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color
chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity,
cultural, and environmental conditions.

CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: *Camellia rosthorniana* 'Elina'.

Parentage: Chance seedling in a controlled planting of
Camellia rosthorniana (unpatented).

Propagation: By stem cuttings.

PLANT

Size: Mature plant can grow to approximately 3 m tall and
approximately 2 m wide.

Habit: Upright evergreen shrub.

Leaves: Simple, entire.

Size.—Average about 2.5 to 4.5 cm long and about 1 to
2 cm wide.

Shape.—Elliptic.
Apex.—Acuminate.
Base.—Attenuate.

Color:

New growth.—Upper side: Near Greyed-Purple Group 183A. Under side: Near Green Group 138A.

Mature growth.—Upper side: Near Green Group 139A. Under side: Near Green Group 137C.

Texture:

New growth.—Upper side: Hirsute. Under side: Hirsute.

Mature growth.—Upper side: Glabrous. Under side: Glabrous.

Leaf margin: Serrate to serrulate, slightly turned down at the edges.

Venation: Reticulate.

Petioles:

Length.—About 2 to 4 mm long.

Color.—Near Grey-Brown Group 199A.

Branching: Over all habit of the plant is upright. The new growth towards the apex of the plant grows upward at about a 45° angle.

Stems:

Color.—Ranging from near Grey-Brown Group 199A to 199C.

Texture.—Hirsute.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 8 (10° to 20° F.).

Vigor: Approximately 18" over 12-month period on young plants, slowing as plant matures.

Pests/diseases: None noted.

INFLORESCENCE

Bloom period: Early February through early April.

Flower form: Solitary at the leaf axils; campanulate at anthesis, petals spreading as the flower ages, becoming salviform; triangular, comprising 3 nearly identical petals subtended by 2 smaller petals.

Flower arrangement: Pedicellate; pendant flowers out-facing at about a 90° angle from the stem.

Flower size: In bud, approximately 1 cm long and 6 mm in circumference; when open, approximately 2.5 to 3 cm across.

Fragrance: None noted.

Lastingness of individual blooms: From 1 to 2 weeks; self-cleaning.

Petals:

Outer petals.—Shape: Ovate to rounded ovate, concave, arranged alternately between inner petals. Size: Approximately 7 mm long and 5 mm wide. Color: In bud, the 2 outer petals are near Red Group 53C; as bud expands, outer petals retain near reddish-pink color 53C at apex, but base of petal (lower one-quarter to one-third) is near White Group 155C.

Inner petals.—Shape: Ovate to obovate in outline; deeply notched at the apex; petal margins slightly wavy. Size: 3 inner petals roughly equal in size, larger than the 2 outer petals, approximately 1.25 to 1.5 cm long and 1.0 to 1.2 cm wide. Color: Near White Group 155C. Flower sepals: Slightly cupped, pointed to about 1 mm long.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Androecium:

Stamens.—Number: About 23 to 28. Size: Approximately 10 mm long. Style Color: Near White Group 155C. Anther Color: Near Yellow-Orange Group 22A. Pollen Color: Near Yellow-Orange Group 21B.

Gynoecium:

Pistil size.—Approximately 12 mm long.

Fruit type.—Elliptical; about 3 or 4 segments. Length: Approximately 2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 14 mm. Color: Near Greyed-Orange Group 175B. Seed: None observed.

I claim:

1. A new *Camellia rosthorniana* variety of the plant substantially as shown and described.

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