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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED ‘HBA215911’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **HBA215911**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./250**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC Plt./250
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PLUTO Plant Variety Database Dec. 15, 2017. p. 1.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named ‘HBA215911’, characterized by its upright and rounded plant habit; vigorous growth habit; rapid growth rate; freely branching habit with strong, thick and sturdy stems; early, freely and uniformly flowering habit; mophead-type inflorescences with numerous red purple-colored sterile flowers; and good postproduction longevity.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘HBA215911’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant, botanically known as *Hydrangea macrophylla*, commercially referred to as a mophead-type *Hydrangea* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘HBA215911’.

The new *Hydrangea* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Kwakel, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to create new freely-branching *Hydrangea* plants with strong sturdy stems, large inflorescences, attractive flower color and good postproduction longevity.

The new *Hydrangea* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in September, 2010 in De Kwakel, The Netherlands, of a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 06-0004-000, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 01-0186-046, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Hydrangea* 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 De Kwakel, The Netherlands in March, 2012.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hydrangea* plant by vegetative cuttings in a controlled environment in De Kwakel, The Netherlands since September, 2012 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

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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 ‘HBA215911’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘HBA215911’ as a new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant:

1. Upright and rounded plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate.
3. Freely branching habit with strong, thick and sturdy stems.
4. Early, freely and uniformly flowering habit.
5. Mophead-type inflorescences with numerous red purple-colored sterile flowers.
6. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in flowering time as plants of the new *Hydrangea* flower earlier than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in inflorescence size as plants of the new *Hydrangea* have larger inflorescences than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the *Hydrangea hybrida* ‘Agrihydradrie’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,726. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in De Kwakel, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of ‘Agrihydradrie’ in flowering time as plants of the new *Hydrangea* flower earlier than plants of ‘Agrihydradrie’.

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 'HBA215911'.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical inflorescences of 'HBA215911'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description were grown during the late spring in 15-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in De Kwakel, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Hydrangea* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 17° C. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were pinched one time and were eleven months old when the photographs and description were taken. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* are not typically treated with aluminum sulfate to "blue" the inflorescences. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical description: *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'HBA215911'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 06-0004-000, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 01-0186-046, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About two weeks at temperatures about 23° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 18 days at temperatures about 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About four weeks at temperatures about 23° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About five weeks at temperatures about 18° C.

Root description.—Thick; typically whitish 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 and rounded plant habit; strong and sturdy stems; rapid growth rate and vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 30 cm to 40 cm.

Plant diameter or area of spread.—About 40 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit; when pinched, about six lateral branches develop per plant.

Length.—About 25 cm.

Diameter.—About 6 mm.

Internode length.—About 6 cm.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous; fully developed, woody.

Aspect.—Upright to about 20° from vertical.

Strength.—Strong, sturdy.

Color.—Close to 146C; at internodes, close to 187A; lenticels, close to 187A; when woody, close to 177C.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 10 cm.

Width.—About 7 cm to 8 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Apex.—Acute to acuminate.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Dentate to serrate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Rugose, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing and fully developed leaves, upper surface: Close to 138A; venation, close to 146C.

Developing and fully developed leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B; venation, close to 146C.

Petioles.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Showy sterile flowers and small, inconspicuous star-shaped fertile flowers arranged on mophead-type terminal panicles; panicles globular in shape; flowers face upright to outwardly depending on the position in the inflorescence.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about nine to eleven months after planting; flowering begins in the early summer and is continuous throughout the summer in Northern Europe.

Flower longevity.—Sterile flowers last about four months on the plant, sterile flowers persistent; fertile flowers last about one month on the plant, fertile flowers not persistent.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering habit; about 40 sterile flowers per panicle and about 20 fertile flowers per panicle.

Panicle height.—About 6 cm.

Panicle diameter.—About 11 cm.

Sterile flower buds.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Flattened globular. Color: Close to 144B.

Fertile flower buds.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Flattened globular. Color: Close to 144B.

Sterile flower diameter.—About 3.5 mm.

Sterile flower depth (height).—About 1 cm.

Fertile flower diameter.—About 6 mm.

Fertile flower depth (height).—About 5 mm.

Petals, fertile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 3.5 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 149D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 57C; color does not change with development.

Petals, sterile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: If present (developed), four or five in a single whorl. Length: About 3.5 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin:

Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 57D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 57C; color does not change with development.

Sepals, sterile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 2 cm. Shape: Deltoid. Apex: Retuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire to dentate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144D; towards the apices, close to 57D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 57A; color does not change with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 57D; color does not change with development.

Sepals, fertile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 62C. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 62C; color does not change with development.

Pedicels, sterile flowers.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 63A.

Pedicels, fertile flowers.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 63A.

Reproductive organs, fertile flowers only; sterile flowers without reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Eight. Filament length: About 1 mm. Filament color: Close to 155D. Anther shape: Conical. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 145D. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 155D. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: Three. Pistil length: About 1 mm. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: Close to 155C. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: Close to 150D. Ovary color: Close to 150D.

Seeds.—Quantity per flower: About 20 to 30. Length: About 0.5 mm. Diameter: About 0.1 mm. Color: Close to 200C.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been shown to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from about 3° C. to about 38° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant named 'HBA215911' as illustrated and described.

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