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Takishita

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(54) **DIEFFENBACHIA PLANT NAMED**
'HATSUKO'

(58) **Field of Search** Plt./378

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(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A distinct cultivar of Dieffenbachia plant named 'Hatsuko',
characterized by its upright and outwardly growth habit with
large leaves; freely clumping habit, full and dense plants;
and unique green and whitish green variegated leaves and
petioles.

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2 Drawing Sheets

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./378**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Dieffenbachia plant, botanically known as *Dieffen-
bachia picta* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Hat-
suko'.

patented. However in side-by-side comparisons conducted
by the Inventor in Haiku, Hi., plants of the new Dieffenba-
chia differed from plants of the cultivar Rudolph Roehrs in
the following characteristics:

The new Dieffenbachia is a naturally-occurring whole
plant mutation of an unnamed selection of *Dieffenbachia
picta*, not patented. The new Dieffenbachia was discovered
by the Inventor in 1981 in a controlled environment in
Haiku, Hi., as a single plant within a population of plants of
the unnamed selection of *Dieffenbachia picta*.

- 5 1. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia are freely-clumping
and produce more offshoots per plant than plants of the
cultivar Rudolph Roehrs.
- 10 2. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have more leaves and
are more dense than plants of the cultivar Rudolf
Roehrs.
- 15 3. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have stronger main
stems than plants of the cultivar Rudolph Roehrs.
- 20 4. Leaves of plants of the new Dieffenbachia and of the
cultivar Rudolph Roehrs differ in variegation pattern.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar by tissue-culture
in Haiku, Hi., has shown that the unique features of this new
Dieffenbachia are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

Plants of the new Dieffenbachia can also be compared to
plants of the *Dieffenbachia picta* cultivar Camille, not pat-
ented. However in side-by-side comparisons conducted by
the Inventor in Haiku, Hi., plants of the new Dieffenbachia
differed from plants of the cultivar Camille in the following
characteristics:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Hatsuko'.
These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Hatsuko'
as a new and distinct cultivar:

- 25 1. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia are larger than plants
of the cultivar Camille.
- 30 2. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have larger leaves than
plants of the cultivar Camille.
- 35 3. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have variegated peti-
oles whereas plants of the cultivar Camille have non-
variegated petioles.
- 40 4. Leaves of plants of the new Dieffenbachia and of the
cultivar Camille differ in variegation pattern.

1. Upright and outwardly arching growth habit with large
leaves.
2. Freely clumping habit, full and dense plants; typically
about 10 offshoots per plant.
3. Unique green and whitish green variegated leaves and
petioles.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in
Haiku, Hi., plants of the new Dieffenbachia differed from
plants of the parent selection of *Dieffenbachia picta* in the
following characteristics:

The cultivar Hatsuko has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity and/or fertilizer rate, without,
however, any variance in genotype.

1. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia are freely-clumping
and produce more offshoots per plant than plants of the
parent selection.
2. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have more leaves and
are more dense than plants of the parent selection.
3. Plants of the new Dieffenbachia have thicker main
stems than plants of the parent selection.
4. Leaves of plants of the new Dieffenbachia and of the
parent selection differ in variegation pattern.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Plants of the new Dieffenbachia can be compared to plants
of the *Dieffenbachia picta* cultivar Rudolph Roehrs, not

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new Dieffenbachia, 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 *Dieffenbachia*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Hatsuko'.

The photographs on the second sheet comprise close-up views of the upper surface of a typical leaf (top photograph) and the lower surface of a typical leaf (bottom photograph). Plants used in the photographs were similar in age to those used in the following detailed botanical description.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following observations, measurements and values describe plants of the new *Dieffenbachia* grown in 20-cm containers, in Haiku, Hi., in a fiberglass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 24° C., night temperatures about 18° C., and with shading providing a 73 percent reduction in ambient light levels. Plants used for this description were grown in the containers for about ten to twelve months. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Dieffenbachia picta* cultivar Hatsuko.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of an unnamed selection of *Dieffenbachia picta*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue-culture.

Time to initiate roots on a tissue-cultured plantlet.—

Summer: About 30 days at 24° C. Winter: About 42 days at 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant from a tissue-culture plantlet.—Summer: About 42 days at 24° C. Winter: About 56 days at 18° C.

Root description.—Thick, freely-branching, white and fleshy.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Upright and outwardly arching.

Plant height.—About 110 cm.

Plant width.—About 70 cm.

Growth rate/vigor.—Vigorous.

Stem color.—Darker than 144A.

Branching habit.—Freely clumping habit; plants typically produce about 10 offshoots per plant; full and dense plants.

Foliage description.—Length: About 34 cm. Width: About 18.5 cm. Shape: Oblong to somewhat ovate. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Slightly cordate. Margin: Entire. Orientation: Initially upright to outwardly arching to somewhat drooping. Surface: Flat, rugose. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Midrib: Prominent on the lower surface. Primary veins: Recessed on upper surface and prominent on lower surface. Color: Dark green margins and midvein with whitish green centers; random light green spots towards the margins and random dark green splotches and light green speckles radiating from the margins toward the center. Upper surface: Margins: Dark green, darker and more green than 147A. Random yellow green, close to 154A, spots towards the margins. Center: Light green, mostly 144A, 144B and 144C; towards midvein, whitish green, lighter than 144C to white, 155D. Random dark green, darker than 147A, splotches. Midvein: Dark green, darker and more green than 147A. Random small light green, close to 144A to 144B, speckles. Lower surface: Margins: Green, close to 147A to 147B. Random white spots, close to 155D, towards margins. Center: Very light green to white, 145D to 155D. Midvein: White, 155D. Petiole: Length: About 18 cm. Diameter, at base: About 3.3 cm. Diameter, just above wing: About 1.1 cm. Diameter, just below leaf: About 8 mm. Length of wing: About 13 cm. Width of wing: About 5 mm. Color: Upper surface: Dark green, close to 147A, with random white, 155D, speckles. Lower surface: White, 155D.

Inflorescence description: Inflorescence development has not been observed on plants of the new *Dieffenbachia* grown under greenhouse production conditions.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens common to *Dieffenbachia* has not been observed on plants of the new *Dieffenbachia*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Dieffenbachia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 0 to 43° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Dieffenbachia* plant named 'Hatsuko', as illustrated and described.

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