BLUEBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘DRISBLUETWOELVE’

Latin Name: Vaccinium corymbosum L.
Varietal Denomination: DrisBlueTwelve

Applicant: DRISCOLL STRAWBERRY ASSOCIATES, INC., Watsonville, CA (US)

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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 169 days.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new variety:
1. Late harvest season;
2. Very low chilling requirement;
3. Sweet berries with very low acidity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This new blueberry plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show fruit of the plant as well as the flowers and leaves. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The photographs are of plants that are six years old.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed description sets forth the distinctive characteristics of ‘DrisBlueTwelve.’ The data which define these characteristics is based on observations taken in Guzman, Mexico from 2009-2013. This description is in accordance with UPOV terminology. Color designations, color descriptions, and other phenotypical descriptions may deviate from the stated values and descriptions depending upon variation in environmental, seasonal, climatic and cultural conditions. ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The botanical description of ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ was taken from 6 year-old plants. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.) (2007 edition). Descriptive terminology follows the Plant Identification Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary, 2nd edition by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, unless where otherwise defined.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:
Family.—Ericaceae.
Botanical.—Vaccinium corymbosum L.
Common name.—Blueberry.
Variety name.—‘DrisBlueTwelve’.
Parentage:

**Female parent.** The blueberry plant ‘Jewel’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,807).

**Male parent.** The proprietary blueberry plant ‘FL 95-54’ (unpatented).

**Plant:**

- **Size.** Very large.
- **Height.** 183.7 cm.
- **Width.** 182.0 cm.
- **Length/width ratio.** 1.0.
- **Plant vigor.** Strong.
- **Growth habit.** Upright.
- **Productivity.** High.
- **Cold hardness.** Medium; USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9.
- **Chilling requirement.** Very low; 100-200 chilling hours.
- **Propagation.** Soft wood cuttings.
- **Time of vegetative bud burst.** Early.
- **Fruiting type.** Only on one-year-old shoots.
- **Canes renewal.** Strong.

**Internode length (upper half on one-year-old shoot).** — 47.2 mm.

**One-year old canes (young canes).** — Length: 114.6 cm. Diameter at the base: 76.0 mm. Diameter at the tip: 10.6 mm. Texture: Rough. Color (One-year old shoot, branch and canes): RHS 183B (Dark greyed-purple).

**Five-year old canes (mature canes).** — Length: 180.8 cm. Diameter at the base: 32.3 mm. Diameter at the tip: 28.1 mm. Texture: Rough. Color: RHS 199D (Light greyed-brown).

**Leaves:**

- **Length.** Medium: 8.02 cm.
- **Width.** Medium: 4.52 cm.
- **Length/width ratio.** 1.8. Longer than broad.
- **Appearance of leaf bud.** Early.
- **Shape.** Elliptic.
- **Apex.** Acute.
- **Base.** Cuneate.
- **Margin.** Entire.
- **Glossiness.** Glossy.
- **Pubescence.** Glabrous (Absent).
- **Sheath.** Absent.
- **Arrangement.** Alternate.
- **Venation.** Reticulate.
- **Color.** Upper surface: Dark; RHS 137A (Dark green). Lower surface: Medium; RHS 138B (Medium green).

**Internode length (one-year old shoot, upper half).** — Medium: 64.15 mm.

**Petiole:**

- **Length.** 4.0 mm.
- **Diameter.** 2.65 mm.
- **Color.** RHS 144D (Light yellow-green).

**Flowers:**

- **Length (excluding peduncle).** Medium: 110.5 mm.
- **Diameter.** 7.80 mm.
- **Length/width ratio.** 1.4.
- **Color.** RHS 155B (White).

**Flower bud.** — Length: 3.72 mm. Width: 7.21 mm. Number of flowers per bud: 4. Anthocyanin coloration: Strong; RHS 60A (Dark red-purple). Color on immature buds: Light; RHS 145B (Light yellow-green). Color on mature buds: Medium; RHS 145A (Medium yellow-green).

**Pedal width.** 9.80 mm.

**Fragrance.** Very faint or absent.

**Time of beginning flowering on one-year shoot.** — Medium.

**Time of flowering (50% antthesis or full bloom).** — Medium.

**Flowering interval.** — January.

**Pedicel.** — Length: 4.49 mm. Diameter: 1.00 mm. Color: RHS 144B (Medium yellow-green).

**Corolla.** — Diameter of corolla tube: 7.8 mm. Height of corolla tube: 11.5 mm. Aperture diameter: 5.65 mm. Shape: Urculate (Urn-shaped). Size of corolla tube: Medium. Ridges on tube: Present.

**Pedicel.** — Length: 44.00 mm. Surface texture: Smooth. Color: RHS 144B (Medium yellow-green).

**Reproductive Organs:**

- **Style length (including stigma).** Medium: 8.60 mm.
- **Style color.** RHS 144B (Medium yellow-green).
- **Pollen amount.** Very low.
- **Pollen color.** RHS 155D (White).
- **Pollination requirement.** Intermediate.
- **Anther color.** RHS 167B (Medium greyed-orange).
- **Ovary color.** RHS 55B (Light red).

**Fruit:**

- **Size.** Medium.
- **Length.** 13.90 mm.
- **Width.** 16.70 mm.
- **Length/width ratio.** 0.8.
- **Fruit pedicel diameter.** 4.49 mm.
- **Weight.** 2.0 g.
- **Number of berries per cluster.** 8.20.
- **Cluster density.** Medium.
- **Shape in longitudinal sections.** Oblate.
- **Intensity of green color (immature fruit with bloom).** — Light; RHS 142C (Light green).
- **Color of skin (immature fruit without bloom).** — RHS 178B (Dark greyed-red).
- **Color of skin (mature fruit without bloom).** — RHS N186A (Dark greyed-purple).
- **Color of skin (mature fruit with bloom).** — RHS 97B (Light violet-blue).
- **Intensity of bloom (mature fruit).** — Strong.
- **Attitude of sepals.** Incurving.
- **Calyx.** Diameter of basin: Very small; 6.70 mm. Depth of basin: Very shallow; 2.00 mm. Diameter/depth ratio: 3.4.
- **Flesh color.** RHS 154D (Light yellow-green).
- **Firmness.** Firm.
- **Sweetness.** High.
- **Acidity.** Very low.
- **Time of beginning of fruit ripening (one-year old shoots).** — Late.
- **Harvest season.** — Late.
- **Harvest interval.** — February-June.

**Seeds:**

- **Length.** 1.60 mm.
- **Width.** 1.00 mm.
- **Length/width ratio.** 1.6.
- **Abundance.** Very low.
- **Color.** RHS N167A (Medium greyed-orange).

Resistence to pests and diseases: Data not available.

**COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL VARIETIES**

‘DrisBlueTwelve’ differs from the female parent ‘Jewel’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,807) in that the fruit of ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ is sweeter, juicier, and more aromatic than ‘Jewel’.
‘DrisBlueTwelve’ differs from the male parent ‘FL 95-54’ (unpatented) in that ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ is much more vigorous and makes a more bushy canopy than ‘FL 95-54’. Additionally, the fruit of ‘FL 95-54’ are lighter blue in color due to more bloom than the fruit of ‘DrisBlueTwelve’.

‘DrisBlueTwelve’ differs from the commercial variety ‘DrisBlueFour’ (U.S. application Ser. No. 13/573,345) in that ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ has later production in Mexico than ‘DrisBlueFour’. Additionally, ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ has an upright growth habit, whereas ‘DrisBlueFour’ has a semi-erect growth habit.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of blueberry plant named ‘DrisBlueTwelve’ as shown and described herein.

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