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(54) **PIERIS PLANT NAMED ‘SHY’**

(50) Latin Name: *Pieris japonica*  
Varietal Denomination: **Shy**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant named ‘Shy’, characterized by its compact plant habit; freely branching habit; leaves that are initially purple red in color and with development become green in color; inflorescences that are initially upright; relatively late flowering response; numerous deep purplish pink-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Pieris japonica*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘SHY’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant, botanically known as *Pieris japonica*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Shy’.

The new *Pieris* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hopewell, Oreg. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new compact *Pieris* plants with upright inflorescences, stable and attractive flower color and good garden performance.

The new *Pieris* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in February, 1988, in Hopewell, Oreg., of *Pieris japonica* var. *japonica* ‘Reversal’, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Pieris japonica* var. *taiwanensis* ‘Shears’, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Pieris* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled outdoor nursery environment in Hopewell, Oreg. in March, 2004.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Pieris* plant by cuttings propagated in a controlled environment in Hopewell, Oreg. since 2004 has shown that the unique features of this new *Pieris* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Pieris* 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, length of growing season and/or light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype. The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Shy’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Shy’ as a new and distinct *Pieris* plant:

- 1. Compact plant habit.
- 2. Freely branching habit.

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- 3. Leaves that are initially purple red in color and with development become green in color.
- 4. Inflorescences that are initially upright.
- 5. Relatively late flowering response.
- 6. Numerous deep purplish pink-colored flowers.
- 7. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Pieris* differ from plants of the female parent, ‘Reversal’, primarily in the following characteristics:

- 1. Plants of the new *Pieris* are more freely branching than plants of ‘Reversal’.
- 2. Plants of the new *Pieris* retain leaves for a longer period of time than plants of ‘Reversal’.
- 3. Developing leaves of plants of the new *Pieris* are purple red in color whereas developing leaves of plants of ‘Reversal’ are yellow green in color.
- 4. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Pieris* are more upright than inflorescences of plants of ‘Reversal’.
- 5. Plants of the new *Pieris* flower later than plants of ‘Reversal’.
- 6. Plants of the new *Pieris* are more freely flowering than plants of ‘Reversal’.
- 7. Flowers of plants of the new *Pieris* are deep purplish pink in color whereas flowers of plants of ‘Reversal’ are red purple in color.

Plants of the new *Pieris* differ from plants of the male parent, ‘Shears’, primarily in the following characteristics:

- 1. Developing leaves of plants of the new *Pieris* are purple red in color whereas developing leaves of plants of ‘Shears’ are yellow green in color.
- 2. Flowers of plants of the new *Pieris* are deep purplish pink in color whereas flowers of plants of ‘Shears’ are white in color.
- 3. Sepals, peduncles and leaf petioles of plants of the new *Pieris* are dark red in color whereas sepals, peduncles and leaf petioles of plants of ‘Shears’ are yellow green in color.

Plants of the new *Pieris* can be compared to the plants of the *Pieris japonica* ‘Passion’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,319. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Hopewell,

Oreg., plants of the new *Pieris* differed from plants of 'Passion' in the following characteristics:

1. Developing leaves of plants of the new *Pieris* were purple red in color whereas developing leaves of plants of 'Passion' were yellow green in color. 5
2. Plants of the new *Pieris* flowered later and flowers lasted for a longer period of time than plants of 'Passion'.
3. Flowers of plants of the new *Pieris* were narrower but had longer petals than flowers of plants of 'Passion'. 10
4. Flowers of plants of the new *Pieris* were deep purplish pink in color whereas flowers of plants of 'Passion' were deep purple in color.
5. Sepals of plants of the new *Pieris* were dark red in color whereas sepals of plants of 'Passion' were light yellow green in color. 15

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Pieris* 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 slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Pieris* plant. 20

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Shy' grown in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical developing and fully expanded leaves of 'Shy'. 30

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

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION 35

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in ground beds in an outdoor nursery in Hopewell, Oreg. and under cultural practices typical of commercial production. Plants used for the photographs and description were ten years old. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. 40

Botanical classification: *Pieris japonica* 'Shy'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—*Pieris japonica* var. *japonica* 'Reversal', not patented. 50

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—*Pieris japonica* var. *taiwanensis* 'Shears', not patented.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By stem cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, fall/winter.*—About nine weeks at temperatures about 20° C. 55

*Root description.*—Fine, fibrous; white to light brown in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Moderate branching; medium density.

Plant description: 60

*Plant and growth habit.*—Woody perennial, evergreen; compact, upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; oval to round in overall shape; moderately vigorous growth habit.

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching habit with typically about three to five lateral branches bypassing 65

each terminal inflorescence; if terminal inflorescences removed, up to six lateral branches will develop.

*Plant height, soil level to top of flowers.*—About 152 cm.

*Plant diameter, area of spread.*—About 132 cm.

*Lateral branch description.*—Length: About 8 cm to 12 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Internode length: About 3 mm to 6 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Between 141C and 143C.

*Leaf description.*—Arrangement: Alternate or whorled at terminals; simple. Length: About 6 cm to 12 cm. Width: About 1.8 cm to 2.4 cm. Shape: Elliptic to obelliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Towards the base, entire; towards the apex, crenate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 185C to 185D. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Between 141C and 143C; venation, close to 143D. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Between 143A and 144A; venation, close to 143D. Petioles: Length: About 5 mm to 10 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143D.

Flower description:

*Flower arrangement and appearance.*—Single urceolate flowers arranged in terminal panicle racemes; developing inflorescences initially upright then bending downwardly with the increasing weight of developing flowers.

*Flowering habit.*—Freely flowering habit; about 80 to 160 flowers develop per inflorescence during the flowering period.

*Natural flowering season.*—Relatively late flowering response; plants of the new *Pieris* typically flower from mid-March to mid-April in Hopewell, Oreg.

*Flower longevity.*—Individual flowers last about 10 to 25 days on the plant.

*Fragrance.*—Sweet, pleasant.

*Inflorescence length.*—About 10 cm to 30 cm.

*Inflorescence diameter.*—About 8 cm to 20 cm.

*Flower diameter.*—About 5 mm to 8 mm.

*Flower depth.*—About 8 mm to 10 mm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 6 mm to 8 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 6 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 187A to 187B.

*Petals.*—Arrangement: Single urceolate flower form; single whorl of five petals fused at the base. Length: About 8 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Roughly ovate with obtuse apex. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 187B; towards the base, close to 155D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 67C and becoming closer to 68B with development; towards the base, close to 155D.

*Sepals.*—Arrangement: Five fused in a single whorl. Length: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Width: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate to broadly cuneate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces:

Smooth, glabrous. Color: Immature, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 187A. Mature, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 187D.

*Peduncles*.—Length: About 8 cm to 20 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Angle: Initially upright to about 80° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 187A to 187B.

*Pedicels*.—Length: About 3 mm to 6 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Angle: About 40° to 60° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 187A to 187B.

*Reproductive organs*.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: About ten. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 200A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 167C. Gynoecium: Quantity of pistils per flower: Typically one. Pistil length: About 4 mm to 6 mm. Style length:

About 4 mm to 5 mm. Style color: Close to 145D. Stigma shape: Narrowly club-shaped. Stigma diameter: Less than 1 mm. Stigma color: Close to 145D. Ovary color: Close to 145D.

*Seeds and fruits*.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Pieris*.  
Garden performance: Plants of the new *Pieris* have been observed to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to rain, wind, ice to 1.5 cm in thickness, snow to 8 cm in thickness and temperatures from about -19° C. to about 42° C.

Disease & pest resistance: Plants have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Pieris* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Pieris* plant named 'Shy' as illustrated and described.

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