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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED ‘H212904’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **H212904**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named ‘H212904’, characterized by its upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; strong and sturdy stems; freely and uniformly flowering habit; and mophead-type inflorescences with numerous white-colored sterile flowers with pink-colored margins.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘H212904’.

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 ‘H212904’.

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 April, 2007 in De Kwakel, The Netherlands, of a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 05-0110-114, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 00-0008-000, 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, 2009.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hydrangea* plant by vegetative cuttings in a controlled environment in De Kwakel, The Netherlands since June, 2009 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 and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with

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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 ‘H212904’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘H212904’ as a new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant:

1. Upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit.
3. Strong and sturdy stems.
4. Freely and uniformly flowering habit.
5. Mophead-type inflorescences with numerous dentate white-colored sterile flowers with pink-colored margins.

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 female parent selection in leaf orientation as plants of the new *Hydrangea* have mostly flat leaves whereas plants of the female parent selection have curled leaves.

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 male parent selection in branching habit as plants of the new *Hydrangea* are more freely branching than plants of the male parent selection. In addition, plants of the new *Hydrangea* and the male parent selection differ in sterile flower sepal color as plants of the male parent have solid white-colored sterile flower sepals.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the *Hydrangea hybrida* ‘Agrihydratwaalf’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,871. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in De Kwakel, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Hydrangea* differed from plants of ‘Agrihydratwaalf’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were more freely branching than plants of ‘Agrihydratwaalf’.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Hydrangea* were flatter than leaves of plants of ‘Agrihydratwaalf’.

3. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* and 'Agrihydratwaalf' differed in sterile flower sepal color as plants of 'Agrihydratwaalf' had sterile flowers with white-colored sepals and dark red-colored margins.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates 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 photograph may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Hydrangea* plant.

The photograph is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'H212904'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description were grown during the summer in 15-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Glandorf, Germany 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 one year old when the photograph and description were taken. 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* 'H212904'.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 05-0110-114, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number 00-0008-000, 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; whitish brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Upright and somewhat outwardly spreading plant habit; rounded in shape; strong and sturdy stems; rapid growth rate and vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 25 cm to 30 cm.

Plant diameter or area of spread.—About 35 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit with about eight to ten lateral branches per plant.

Length.—About 16 cm to 21 cm.

Diameter.—About 5 mm to 7 mm.

Internode length.—About 3 cm to 4.5 cm.

Stem texture.—Smooth, glabrous.

Strength.—Strong, sturdy.

Color.—Close to 144B, overlain with close to 187A; lenticels, close to 187A.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 10 cm to 12.5 cm.

Width.—About 7 cm to 9 cm.

Shape.—Ovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Dentate.

Texture, upper surface.—Smooth to rugose, glabrous.

Texture, lower surface.—Rugose, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 147A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 145B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C; venation, close to 145C.

Petioles.—Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145B.

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 slightly outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about nine to 14 months after planting; short production time as a cooling treatment is not required for flower development; continuous flowering from late spring to late 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 80 sterile flowers per panicle and about 30 fertile flowers per panicle.

Panicle height.—About 8 cm to 9 cm.

Panicle diameter.—About 12 cm to 14 cm.

Sterile flower buds.—Length: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Spherical. Color: Close to 157D.

Fertile flower buds.—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Spherical. Color: Close to 145B.

Sterile flower diameter.—About 3 cm to 3.5 cm.

Sterile flower depth (height).—About 8 mm.

Fertile flower diameter.—About 3 mm.

Fertile flower depth (height).—About 4 mm.

Petals, fertile flowers only, sterile flowers without petals.—Quantity and arrangement: Five in a single whorl. Length: About 4 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 145D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155B; color becoming closer to 155C with development.

Sepals, sterile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: Four in a single whorl. Length: About 1.3 cm to 1.5 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm to 1.7 cm. Shape: Roughly deltoid. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin:

Crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 157B; margins, close to 65A. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155A; margins, close to 65A; color does not change with development.

Sepals, fertile flowers.—Quantity and arrangement: Five 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 145A. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155B; color does not change with development.

Pedicels, sterile flowers.—Length: About 1.5 cm to 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 157A.

Pedicels, fertile flowers.—Length: About 5 mm to 10 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 157B and 69A.

Reproductive organs, fertile flowers only; sterile flowers without reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity

per flower: Eight. Filament length: About 1 mm. Filament color: Close to 155B. Anther shape: Conical. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 155B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 155B. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: Three. Pistil length: About 3 mm. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: Close to 155B. Style length: About 2 mm to 3 mm. Style color: Close to 155B. Ovary color: Close to 155B.

Seeds.—Quantity per flower: About 20 to 30. Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 0.2 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 'H212904' as illustrated and described.

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