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(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
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(54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED 'BIG DADDY'**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*  
Varietal Denomination: **Big Daddy**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./250**

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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 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named 'Big Daddy',  
characterized by its large and vigorous growth habit; upright  
and rounded plant habit; large glossy dark green-colored  
leaves; and large inflorescences with large pink-colored  
flowers.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/313,131**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 6, 2002**

(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **A01H 5/00**

**1 Drawing Sheet**

**1**

**2**

Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar Big Daddy.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-  
var of *Hydrangea* plant, botanically known as *Hydrangea*  
*macrophylla*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar  
name Big Daddy.

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* had darker green-colored,  
glossier and larger leaves than plants of the cultivar  
Nikko Blue.
2. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* had stronger and thicker  
stems than plants of the cultivar Nikko Blue.
3. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* had larger inflorescences  
than plants of the cultivar Nikko Blue.

The new *Hydrangea* originated from a chance cross-  
pollination of two unidentified selections of *Hydrangea*  
*macrophylla*, not patented. The cultivar Big Daddy was  
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant  
within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a  
controlled environment in Marietta, Ga. in May, 1996.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
unique appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-  
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ  
from the color values cited in the detailed botanical descrip-  
tion which accurately describe the colors of the new *Hydran-*  
*gea*.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by vegetative  
cuttings taken in Atlanta, Ga., since September, 1999, has  
shown that the unique features of this new *Hydrangea* are  
stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view  
of a typical flowering plant of 'Big Daddy'.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a  
close-up view of typical inflorescence of a plant of 'Big  
Daddy'.

Plants of the cultivar Big Daddy have not been observed  
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype  
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as  
temperature and light intensity without, however, any var-  
iance in genotype.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

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

In the following description, color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition,  
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-  
cance are used. Plants used in the aforementioned photo-  
graphs and in the following description were grown in  
Atlanta, Ga. in two-gallon containers in an outdoor nursery  
and under conditions which closely approximate commer-  
cial production conditions. Plants were about two years old  
when the photographs and description were taken. The  
photographs and description were taken during the early  
summer.

1. Large and vigorous growth habit.
2. Upright and rounded plant habit.
3. Large glossy dark green-colored leaves.
4. Large inflorescences with large pink-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* typically have larger leaves  
and inflorescences than other known selections of *Hydran-*  
*gea macrophylla*.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of  
the *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar Nikko Blue, not pat-  
ented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Atlanta,  
Ga., plants of the new *Hydrangea* differed from plants of the  
cultivar Nikko Blue in the following characteristics:

Botanical classification: *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivar  
Big Daddy.

Parentage:

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Unidentified *Hydrangea*  
*macrophylla* selection, not patented.

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Unidentified *Hydrangea macrophylla* selection, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—By vegetative cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots.*—About 10 days at 75° F.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner.*—About 60 days at 75° F.

*Root description.*—Fine.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching.

Plant description:

*Form/growth habit.***13** Upright and rounded plant habit; bushy perennial shrub. Tall and vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height, soil level to top of plant plane.*—About 58 cm.

*Plant diameter or area of spread.*—About 66 cm.

*Branching habit.*—When pinched, freely branching with about twelve lateral branches per plant.

*Lateral branches.*—Length: About 53 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Internode length: About 6.5 cm. Texture: New growth, smooth; mature, woody with lenticels. Lenticel quantity per linear 10 cm of stem: More than 50. Lenticel length: About 2 mm. Lenticel width: About 1 mm. Color: Young stems: Close to 144A. Mature stems: Closest to between 199A and 199B. Lenticels: Close to 166A to 166B.

*Foliage description.*—Leaves large, glossy, simple, opposite and durable. Length: About 15 cm. Width: About 10 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute with cuspidate tendencies. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Serrulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Close to 147A. Young foliage, lower surface: Close to 147B. Mature foliage, upper surface: Close to 147A. Mature foliage, lower surface: Close to 147A to 147B. Venation, upper surface: 146C to 146D. Venation, lower surface: 144C to 144D. Petiole: Length: About 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 146B to 146C.

Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Single flowers arranged on terminal globular panicles with large showy sepals. Flowers persistent. Fragrance, not detected.

*Natural flowering season.*—Continuously flowering during the early summer in Atlanta, Ga.

*Flower longevity.*—Flowers last about four weeks on the plant.

*Quantity of flowers.*—Freely flowering; typically more than 300 flowers per panicle.

*Panicle length.*—About 15 cm.

*Panicle diameter.*—About 25 cm.

*Flower diameter.*—About 4 cm.

*Flower depth (height).*—About 6 mm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Shape: Globulose. Color: 145A.

*Petals.*—Arrangement: About four in a single whorl. Length: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Roughly ovate. Apex: Acute to rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 63C to 63D.

*Sepals.*—Arrangement: About four in a single whorl. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 2 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded to slightly acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: 145A. When opening, lower surface: 145A to 145B. Fully opened, upper surface: 63C; color becoming closer to 145A with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 63C to 63D; color becoming closer to 145A to 145B with development.

*Pedicels.*—Angle: About 45° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong. Length: About 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Color: Close to 63D.

*Peduncles.*—Angle: Upright. Strength: Moderately strong. Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Color: 144A.

*Reproductive organs.*—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About four or five. Anther shape: Spherical. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther color: 95D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 10D. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm. Stigma shape: Two to three-lobed. Stigma color: 63D. Style length: About 0.5 mm. Style color: 63D. Ovary color: 144B. Fruit/seed: Fruit and seed production has not been observed.

*Disease/pest resistance:* Under commercial production conditions, plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been observed to be somewhat resistant to Powdery Mildew. Plants have not been observed to be resistant to other pathogens or pests common to *Hydrangea*.

*Weather tolerance:* Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been shown to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from 10 to more than 100° F. Flowers of plants have exhibited excellent tolerance to wind and rain.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hydrangea* plant named 'Big Daddy', as illustrated and described.

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