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Fitzgerald

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(54) **CAREX PLANT NAMED ‘FICRE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Carex oshimensis*
Varietal Denomination: **Ficre**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 4 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./384**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC Plt./384, 373
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

Upov Pluto Plant Variety Database Nov. 8, 2016 retrieved on Nov.
8, 2016 for Cares ‘Evercream’, retrieved from the Internet at
<<https://www3.wipo.int/pluto/user/en/index.jsp>> one page.*

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Carex oshimensis*, ‘Ficre’, characterized
its dwarf plant habit, its foliage that is variegated with deep
green centers and creamy yellow margins, and its ust growth
habit.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Carex oshimensis*.
Varietal denomination: ‘Ficre’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Carex oshimensis* and will be referred to hereafter by its
cultivar name, ‘Ficre’. ‘Ficre’ is a new cultivar of perennial
ornamental grass grown for container and landscape use,
primarily in shaded exposures.

The new cultivar, ‘Ficre’ arose as a naturally occurring
chimeral mutation of *Carex oshimensis* ‘Evergold’ (not
patented). The Inventor discovered ‘Ficre’ in August of 2011
in a container at his nursery in Oldtown, Stoneyford, Co.
Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by shoot division in Oldtown, Stoneyford, Co.
Kilkenny, Republic shoot division has determined that the
characteristics are stable and are reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish ‘Ficre’ as a distinct
cultivar of *Carex*.

1. ‘Ficre’ exhibits a dwarf plant habit.
2. ‘Ficre’ exhibits foliage that is variegated with deep
green centers and creamy yellow margins.
3. ‘Ficre’ exhibits a robust growth habit.

‘Evergold’, the parent plant of ‘Ficre’, differs from ‘Ficre’
in having foliage that is variegated with creamy yellow
centers and green margins. ‘Ficre’ can be most closely
compared to the cultivars ‘Eversheen’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.

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25,938) and ‘Everlime’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,622). ‘Ever-
sheen’ differs from ‘Ficre’ in having foliage that is varie-
gated with green-yellow centers and deep green margins.
‘Everlime’ differs from ‘Ficre’ in having variegated foliage
with centers that are green in color with lime green margins.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance and distinct characteristics of a six
month-old plant the new *Carex* as grown outdoors in a
19-cm container in Oldtown, Stoneyford, C. Kilkenny, Ire-
land.

The photograph in FIG. 1 illustrates the dwarf plant habit
and appearance of ‘Ficre’ in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of the
flowers of ‘Ficre’.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the
foliage of ‘Ficre’.

The colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the
color values cited in the detailed botanical description,
which accurately describe the colors of the new *Carex*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of six month-old
plants as grown outdoors in a nursery in 19-cm containers in
Co. Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland. The phenotype of the
new cultivar may vary with variations in environmental,
climatic, and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested
under all possible environmental conditions. The color
determination is in accordance with The 2007 R.H.S. Colour
Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England,
except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary
significance are used.

General description:

Blooming period.—Inflorescences emerge in mid February and continue into mid summer in the Republic of Ireland.

Plant habit.—Herbaceous perennial, flattened globular with arching leaves and inflorescences. 5

Growth habit.—Broad, spreading.

Height and spread.—Reaches about 19.7 cm in height, spreads to about 37.5 cm in diameter.

Hardiness.—At least in U.S.D.A. Zones 6. 10

Plant vigor.—Robust.

Diseases and pests.—No more susceptible or resistant to pests and diseases than other *Carex* varieties (which are typically disease free).

Root description.—Short, stout rhizomes with dense, fibrous roots, roots moderately branched. 15

Propagation.—Shoot division.

Branching.—Average of 62 main shoots grow from the base, no lateral branches.

Foliage description: 20

Leaf shape.—Linear, strongly curved (arching).

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Sheathing.

Leaf apex.—Long acuminate.

Leaf aspect.—Leaves initially emerge upright, then cascade outward and finally arch downward until the terminal blades lay on the ground. 25

Leaf venation.—Parallel.

Leaf margins.—Entire and moderately sharp when rubbed downwards due to very small teeth too small to be seen or measured. 30

Leaf size.—Matures to an average of 24.3 cm in length and 7 mm in width.

Leaf number.—Average of 10 leaves per shoot.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate. 35

Leaf surface.—Upper side glossy, lower side moderately glossy, both sides are smooth.

Leaf color.—Young upper surface; 143A to 144A, with narrow margins 154C, young lower surface; 154C to 154D, mature upper surface; color between N137A and 139A, with margins 154D, mature lower surface; N137B with margins 154C to 154D. 40

Durability to stresses.—High.

Petiole.—No petioles, leaves sheathing; average of 1.9 cm in width and ranging between 177B to 177C and 201A to 201B in color. 45

Flower description:

General description.—Terminal racemes, male and female flowers on separate spikelets.

Inflorescence size.—Average of 6.1 cm in height and 9 mm in width. 50

Flower quantity per inflorescence.—Average of 45 male flowers placed in an average of 1 spikelet and an average of 72 female flowers placed in an average of 2 spikelets. 55

Lastingness of inflorescence.—Flowers last about 10 days.

Flowering season.—Continuous from late winter into summer.

Response time to flower.—Approximately 8 months.

Rate of flower opening.—After first initial flowers open in an inflorescence all flowers open within 3 weeks.

Fragrance.—None.

Flower buds.—Male flower: average of 5 mm in length and 2 mm in diameter, narrow oblong in shape and 199B to 199C in color, female flower: average of 5 mm in length and 2 mm in width, narrow obovate in shape and 147D in color.

Spikelet shape.—Sedge-like, narrowly ovate.

Persistence of spikelets.—Persistent.

Floret (spikelet) size.—Staminate florets; an average of 2 mm in diameter and 7 mm in length, pistillate florets; an average of 3 mm in diameter and 6 mm in length.

Floret (spikelet) description.—1 glume on inner side and 1 lemma on outer side, male flower: average of 1 glume and 1 lemma, glume and lemma surfaces smooth and dull, glume and lemma lanceolate in shape, glume and lemma entire margin, glume apex long, narrow and acute, lemma apex long and mucronate, glume and lemma 7 mm in length and 1 mm in width, glume and lemma color: upper and lower surface when opening and fully open; N199C to N199D, female flower: (no glume), lemma; 1, smooth and dull surfaces, lanceolate in shape, entire margin, apex long and mucronate, average of 6 mm in length and 1 mm in width, color: upper and lower surface when opening and fully open; 147D, margins tinged with 176B.

Peduncle.—An average of 15.2 cm in length and 1 mm in diameter, held upright to 5° to upright, glabrous surface, strong and 143A in color.

Reproductive organs:

Gynoecium.—Average of 1 pistil about 3 mm in length, stigma is fimbriate and 156D in color, style is about 0.5 mm in length and 144B in color, ovary is 144C in color.

Androcoecium.—Average of 3 stamens, basifixed, about 2 mm in length and 162A to 162B in color, pollen production very low and insufficient in quantity to be color coded.

Fruits and seeds.—Seed production has not been observed to date.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Carex* plant named 'Ficre' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3