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- (54) **HYDRANGEA PLANT NAMED ‘H223907’**
- (50) Latin Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*  
Varietal Denomination: **H223907**
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*A01H 6/48* (2018.01)
- (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 ‘H223907’, characterized by its relatively compact, upright and uniformly mounded plant habit; vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate; freely branching habit with strong, thick and sturdy stems; freely and uniformly flowering habit; mophead-type inflorescences with numerous sterile flowers that are yellow green in color with purplish pink-colored centers; and good postproduction longevity.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Hydrangea macrophylla*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘H223907’.

**CLOSELY-RELATED APPLICATION(S)**

An European Community Plant Breeder’s Rights application for the instant plant was filed by the Applicant/Assignee, *Hydrangea* Breeders Association B.V. of De Kwakel, The Netherlands on Mar. 9, 2023, application number 2023/0602. Foreign priority is not claimed to this application.

**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 ‘H223907’.

The new *Hydrangea* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Kwakel, The Netherlands and Lengerich, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to create new strong and freely-branching *Hydrangea* plants with strong sturdy stems, uniform flowering habit, large inflorescences with numerous showy sterile flowers, attractive sterile flower color and good postproduction longevity.

The new *Hydrangea* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the spring of 2017 in De Kwakel, The Netherlands, of a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number F16-4, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number K14-595-024, 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

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within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Lengerich, Germany during the spring of 2019.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hydrangea* plant by vegetative tip cuttings in a controlled environment in De Kwakel, The Netherlands since the summer of 2019 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 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 ‘H223907’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘H223907’ as a new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant:

1. Relatively compact, upright and uniformly mounded plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate.
3. Freely branching habit with strong, thick and sturdy stems.
4. Freely and uniformly flowering habit.
5. Mophead-type inflorescences with numerous sterile flowers that are yellow green in color with purplish pink-colored centers.
6. Good postproduction longevity.

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 the female parent selection in growth habit as plants of the new *Hydrangea* are more vigorous than plants of the female parent selection.

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 the male parent selection in sterile flower color as sterile flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea* are yellow green in color with purplish pink-colored centers whereas sterile flowers of plants of the male parent selection are pink in color.

Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be compared to plants of the *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'HBA215910', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 29,171. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Hydrangea* differ primarily from plants of 'HBA215910' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* are larger than plants of 'HBA215910'.
2. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* are more freely branching than plants of 'HBA215910'.
3. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have thicker lateral branches than plants of 'HBA215910'.
4. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have smaller sterile flowers than plants of 'HBA215910'.
5. Sterile flowers of plants of the new *Hydrangea* are yellow green in color with purplish pink-colored centers whereas sterile flowers of plants of 'HBA215910' are dark red purple in color with green-colored sectors.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph on the first sheet (FIG. 1) is a top perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'H223907'.

The photograph on the second sheet (FIG. 2) is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'H223907'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and in the following description were grown during the spring and early summer in 17-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Lengerich, Germany and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Hydrangea* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 17C. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* were 14 months old when the photographs and description were taken. Plants of the new *Hydrangea* can be treated with aluminum sulfate to "blue" the inflorescences. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical description: *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'H223907'. Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number F16-4, not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Proprietary selection of *Hydrangea macrophylla* identified as code number K14-595-024, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—By vegetative tip cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About two weeks at temperatures about 23C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About 18 days at temperatures about 20C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About four weeks at temperatures about 23C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.*—About five weeks at temperatures about 20C.

*Root description.*—Thick; typically whitish brown in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

*Plant and growth habit.*—Relatively compact, upright and uniformly mounded plant habit; strong and sturdy stems; rapid growth rate and vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height.*—About 30 cm to 35 cm.

*Plant diameter or area of spread.*—About 60 cm.

Lateral branch description:

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching habit; when pinched, about 14 lateral branches develop per plant.

*Length.*—About 20 cm to 25 cm.

*Diameter.*—About 8 mm.

*Internode length.*—About 4 cm to 6 cm.

*Texture.*—Smooth, glabrous; fully developed, woody.

*Aspect.*—Upright to about 20 degrees from vertical.

*Strength.*—Strong, sturdy.

*Color.*—When developing: Close to 146B. Fully developed: Close to 177C; lenticels, close to 187A.

Leaf description:

*Arrangement.*—Opposite, simple.

*Length.*—About 10 cm to 12 cm.

*Width.*—About 7 cm to 9 cm.

*Shape.*—Ovate.

*Apex.*—Acute to acuminate.

*Base.*—Obtuse.

*Margin.*—Dentate to serrate.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Rugose, glabrous.

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Color.*—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to NN137A; venation, close to 144A.

Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to NN137C; venation, close to 144A.

*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 144A.

Flower description:

*Flower type and habit.*—Small and inconspicuous fertile flowers and showy sterile flowers arranged on mophead-type terminal panicles; panicles upright and globular in shape; fertile flowers face upright and sterile flowers face upright to outwardly depending on their position in the inflorescence.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Time to flowering.*—Plants begin flowering about eight weeks after cold treatment.

*Flower longevity.*—Fertile flowers last about one month on the plant, fertile flowers not persistent; sterile flowers last about four months on the plant, sterile flowers persistent.

*Quantity of flowers.*—Freely flowering habit; about 20 to 30 fertile flowers and about 100 sterile flowers per panicle.

*Panicle height*.—About 7 cm to 8 cm.  
*Panicle diameter*.—About 14 cm to 16 cm.  
*Fertile flower buds*.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Spherical. Color: Close to 144A.  
*Sterile flower buds*.—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Spherical. Color: Close to 144A.  
*Fertile flower diameter*.—About 5 mm.  
*Fertile flower depth (height)*.—About 5 mm.  
*Sterile flower diameter*.—About 2.5 cm to 3 cm.  
*Sterile flower depth (height)*.—About 1 cm.  
*Petals, fertile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: About five in a single whorl. Length: About 3 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 144C. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 65D; color does not change with subsequent development.  
*Petals, sterile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: About four in a single whorl. Length: About 3 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 145B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 63D; color does not change with subsequent development.  
*Sepals, fertile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: About five in a single whorl. Length: About 3 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 144B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144B; color does not change with subsequent development.  
*Sepals, sterile flowers*.—Quantity and arrangement: About four in a single whorl. Length: About 1.5 cm to 2 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm to 2 cm. Shape: Deltoid. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Rugose, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 144A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 144D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 144A; center, close

to 64D; color does not change with subsequent development; when “blued” with aluminum sulfate, color is close to 84B. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 144D; center, close to 65A; color does not change with subsequent development.  
*Pedicels, fertile flowers*.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 64D.  
*Pedicels, sterile flowers*.—Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: About 45 degrees from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 65A.  
*Reproductive organs, fertile flowers*.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About eight. Filament length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Filament color: Close to 65D. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther shape: Conical. Anther color: Close to 65D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 155A. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Stigma shape: Three-lobed. Stigma color: Close to 65D. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: Close to 65D. Ovary color: Close to 65D.  
*Reproductive organs, sterile flowers*.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About eight. Filament length: About 2 mm. Filament color: Close to 65D. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther shape: Conical. Anther color: Close to 65D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 155A. Pistils: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Stigma shape: Three-lobed. Stigma color: Close to 65D. Style length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Style color: Close to 65D. Ovary color: Close to 65D.  
*Seeds, only produced by fertile flowers*.—Quantity per fertile flower: About 20 to 30. Length: About 0.5 mm. Diameter: About 0.1 mm. Color: Close to 200C.  
 Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Hydrangea* grown under commercial production conditions have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Hydrangea* plants.  
 Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hydrangea* have been shown to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from about 3C to about 38C.  
 It is claimed:  
 1. A new and distinct *Hydrangea* plant named ‘H223907’ as illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2