



US00PP32398P3

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Kurabayashi

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP32,398 P3**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 27, 2020**

(54) **RHODODENDRON PLANT NAMED**
'KURACHIFFON'

(50) Latin Name: *Rhododendron* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: **Kurachiffon**

(71) Applicant: **Kabushiki Gaisha Akatsuka Garden**
Co., Ltd., Tsu-shi, Mie-ken (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Yukio Kurabayashi**, Tsu (JP)

(73) Assignee: **KABUSHIKI GAISHA AKATSUKA**
GARDEN CO., LTD., Tsu-Shi,
Mie-Ken (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/501,342**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 28, 2019**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2019/0394918 P1 Dec. 26, 2019

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jun. 20, 2018 (JP) PBR 33198

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)
A01H 6/36 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./238**
CPC *A01H 6/364* (2018.05)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./238, 239, 240
CPC A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Cantor Colburn LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of
plant named 'Kurachiffon'. The variety is botanically iden-
tified as *Rhododendron* hybrid. The new variety is distin-
guished from other varieties by a number of properties,
including but not limited to, corolla lobe color.

5 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the plant claimed: The variety is botanically
identified as *Rhododendron* hybrid.

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application claims benefit of Japanese Plant Variety
Protection Application No. 33198, filed on Jun. 20, 2018,
which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new variety 'Kurachiffon' originated from the con-
trolled cross of the plants 'Stardust' and 'Pink Ice' per-
formed in April 2012 in Anouchi, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. In 2015, the new variety having healthy looking short
bunches of flowers with pink rims was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within
the progeny of the stated controlled cross-pollination in
Anouchi, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. As a result of tissue
cultures and trial production in the field in 2015, 'Kurachif-
fon' was determined as being an excellent variety with
beautiful blooms in 2018, and breeding was subsequently
completed.

SUMMARY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of plant named 'Kurachiffon'. The variety is botanically
identified as *Rhododendron* hybrid. The new variety is
distinguished from other varieties by a number of charac-
teristics as set forth below.

When compared to the 'Mrs. Fujii' variety (not patented)
having blossoms with a primary color that is pale pink,

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almost white (R.H.S. color chart N74D) and a secondary
color that is a very pale purple (R.H.S. color chart 76D), the
new variety of the present invention has been found to
exhibit attractive blossoms with a principle light reddish
purple color (R.H.S. color chart N75A) and a secondary
color that is very pale purple (R.H.S. color chart 76C and
weak spots (R.H.S. color chart N74B). The annual blooming
time for 'Kurachiffon' is about one and a half months later
than 'Mrs. Fujii'. 'Kurachiffon' has larger and thicker leaves
(about 11 centimeters (cm) in length and about 4.5 cm in
width) compared to 'Mrs. Fujii' (10 cm in length and 2.5 cm
in width). The branch color of a one-year old plant of
'Kurachiffon' is pale green (R.H.S. color chart 143C),
whereas the branch color of a one-year old plant of 'Mrs.
Fujii' is dark red purple, almost brown (R.H.S. color chart
180A). 'Kurachiffon' has a smaller truss size (15 cm in
diameter and 15 cm in height) than 'Mrs. Fujii' (about 25 cm
in diameter and about 20 cm in height). 'Kurachiffon' has
more corolla per truss, about 20, than 'Mrs. Fujii', about 15,
but the size of the corolla of 'Kurachiffon' is smaller (about
6 cm in length, about 6 cm in height, and about 5 cm in
thickness) than 'Mrs. Fujii' (about 10 cm in length, about 10
cm in height, and about 5 cm in thickness).

'Kurachiffon' can be compared to its female parent 'Star-
dust' (not patented), and its male parent 'Pink Ice' (not
patented). 'Stardust' has a height of about 80 cm and has
spotted, light-purple flowers that bloom on April 20. 'Pink
Ice' has a height of about 200 cm and pale pink flowers
without spots that bloom on April 10. In contrast, 'Kurachif-
fon' has a height of about 40-50 cm and flowers with a
principle light reddish purple color (R.H.S. color chart

N75A), a secondary color that is very pale purple (R.H.S. color chart 76C), and weak spots (R.H.S. color chart N74B), which bloom on April 15.

'Kurachiffon' can also be compared to its sibling cultivars, 'Triton' (U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/501,340) and 'Kurachouchou' (U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/501,341). 'Triton' blooms earlier than 'Kurachiffon', April 1 versus April 15, respectively. 'Triton' flowers have a principle deep purplish pink color (R.H.S. color chart N74C), without spots, and 'Kurachiffon' flowers have a principle light reddish purple color (R.H.S. color chart N75A), with weak spots (R.H.S. color chart N74B). 'Kurachouchou' blooms later than 'Kurachiffon', May 5 versus April 15. 'Kurachouchou' flowers a principle color that is a strong purplish red (R.H.S. color chart 71C), and 'Kurachiffon' flowers have a principle color that is a light reddish purple (R.H.S. color chart N75A).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographs show typical specimens of the new variety, including foliage and flowers, in color as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make in color illustrations of these characteristics.

FIG. 1 illustrates the upper side of the flowers and the plant;

FIG. 2 illustrates a full view of the cultivation area showing the leaves of the plant;

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up of the flower;

FIG. 4 illustrates a close-up of the dissected flower; and

FIG. 5 illustrates, for comparison, the upper side of the flowers and the plant of 'Mrs. Fujii'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The following detailed description of the new variety is based upon observations taken of plants grown in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. Observations of 'Kurachiffon' were taken during the 2015 growing season.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) Color Chart, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendrum* hybrid.

Principle use: Flowering shrub for potted plant and open-field cultivation.

Parentage: The female parent is 'Stardust', and the male parent 'Pink Ice'.

Propagation: The new variety was propagated using tissue cultures from plants potted in greenhouse facilities in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan. Growth points were collected from lateral buds of shoots, and cultivation and growth were performed without using calli.

Plant:

Size.—At 3 years of age, plants of the new variety commonly exhibit a height of about 40-50 cm and a width of about 30 cm.

Habit.—Vigorous and compact.

Foliage:

Arrangement.—Foliage arrangements are pseudoverticillate or false verticillate, appearing whorled or verticillate, but not actually so.

Type.—Evergreen flowering shrub, simple lanceolate leaves with an obtuse leaf base, oblong body, acute apex, and entire margins. The upper surfaces of the

leaves appear semi-glossy, and the bottom surfaces of the leaves appear matte.

Venation.—Leaves have a netted (reticulate) venation pattern. R.H.S. color chart 136D on the upper surface of the leaves, and R.H.S. color chart 150C on the bottom surface.

Size.—Mature leaves growing midway up the stem commonly are approximately 11 cm in length and approximately 4.5 cm in width.

Color.—R.H.S. color chart 137A on the upper surface, and R.H.S. color chart 143C on the under surface.

Petioles:

Size.—1.5 cm in length, and 3.0 millimeters (mm) in diameter.

Texture.—Rough with bristles.

Color.—R.H.S. color chart 58B.

Branches:

Size.—Mature lateral branches (one-year old wood) are 1.0 meter (m) in length and 7.0 mm in diameter.

Internode length.—Mature lateral branches (one year old wood) have a 1.0 cm internode length.

Texture.—Mature lateral branches (one year old wood) are rough with bristles.

Color.—Mature lateral branches (one-year old wood) — R.H.S. color chart 143C.

Peduncles:

Size.—Approximately 2.0 cm in length and 2.5 mm in diameter.

Color.—R.H.S. color chart 138B.

Petals:

Shape.—Petals are generally wavy with a connected base and sharply pointed apex.

Size.—Approximately 5.0 cm in length and 3.0 cm in width.

Texture.—Both surfaces of the petals are generally smooth.

Sepals: None.

Flowers:

Period.—Blooms approximately April 15 in the evening when cultured at Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan.

Appearance.—Corymb.

Arrangement.—Spheroidal.

Truss shape.—Generally a sphere.

Truss size.—Approximately 15 cm diameter, and approximately 15 cm in height.

Corolla per truss.—Approximately 20.

Corolla shape.—Open funnel shape.

Corolla size.—Approximately 6 cm in length, 6 cm in width, and 5 cm in thickness.

Number of lobes.—Five lobes per floret.

Margin of lobes.—Wavy to frilly.

Fragrance.—None.

Calyx size.—Approximately 2 millimeters (mm) in length.

Flower bud shape.—Lacrimoid.

Flower bud size.—Approximately 4.0 mm in length and 2.5 cm in diameter.

Flower bud color.—R.H.S. color chart NN74B.

Flower color.—Two colors on the surfaces of the corolla lobe, with the same color on both the upper and lower surfaces. The principle color on the surfaces of the corolla lobe is light reddish purple (R.H.S. color chart N75A). The secondary color on the surfaces of the corolla lobe is very pale purple

(R.H.S. color chart 76C). Weak, independent spots (R.H.S. color chart N74B) are present on the throat of the corolla lobe.

Longevity.—10 days.

Reproductive organs:

Stamen number.—10.

Filament length.—Approximately 3.5 cm.

Filament color.—R.H.S. color chart 76C.

Anther shape.—Barrel shaped.

Anther length.—Approximately 2.0 mm.

Anther color.—R.H.S. color chart 155A.

Pollen amount and color.—High pollen count and R.H.S. color chart 155A.

Pistil length.—Approximately 3.0 cm.

Stigma shape.—Captiform.

Stigma color.—R.H.S. color chart 160A.

Style length.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

Style color.—R.H.S. color chart 157D.

Ovary color.—R.H.S. color chart 189A.

Winter hardiness: Has survived winters with temperatures as low as -3° C. in Anoucho, Tsu-shi, Mie-ken, Japan.

- 5 Disease resistance: During observations to date, the foliage has been disease resistant. Although generally, *Rhododendron* hybrid plants are prone to root rot disease, which tends to occur in high temperatures, 'Kurachiffon' is resistant to root rot because it is resistant to high temperatures.

- 10 Successive generations: Reproduces true to type in successive generations as set forth above.

What is claimed is:

- 15 1. A new and distinct variety of *Rhododendron* hybrid plant, substantially as shown and described.

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FIG. 1

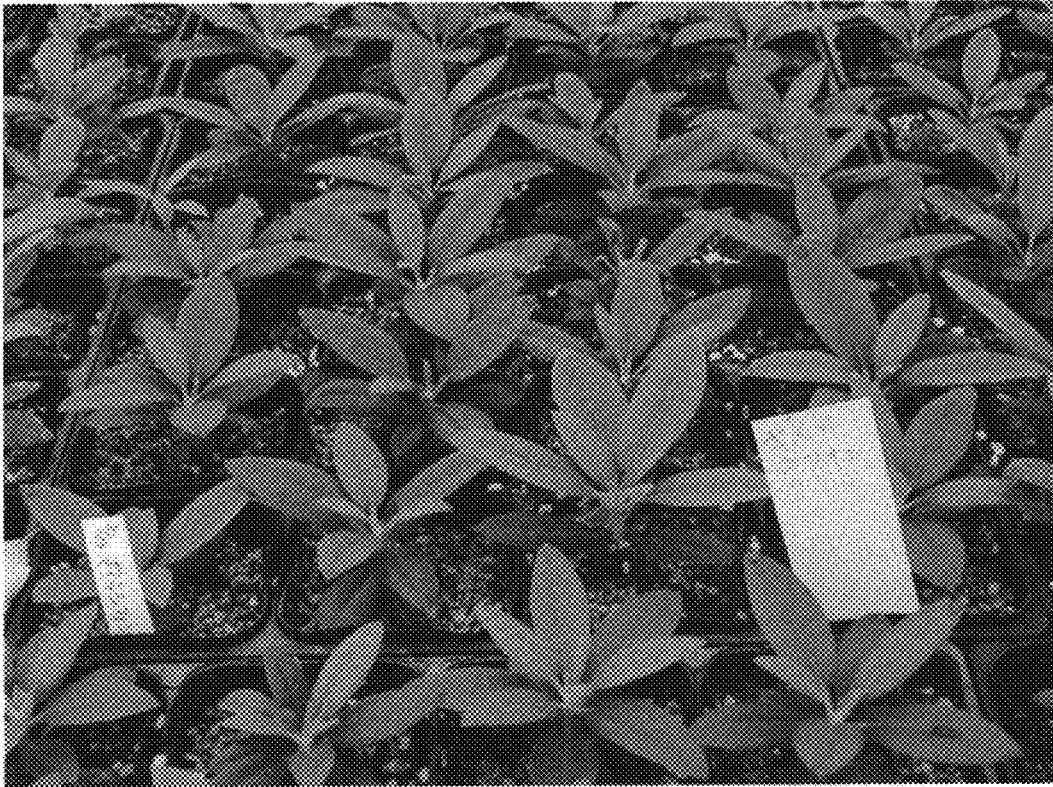


FIG. 2

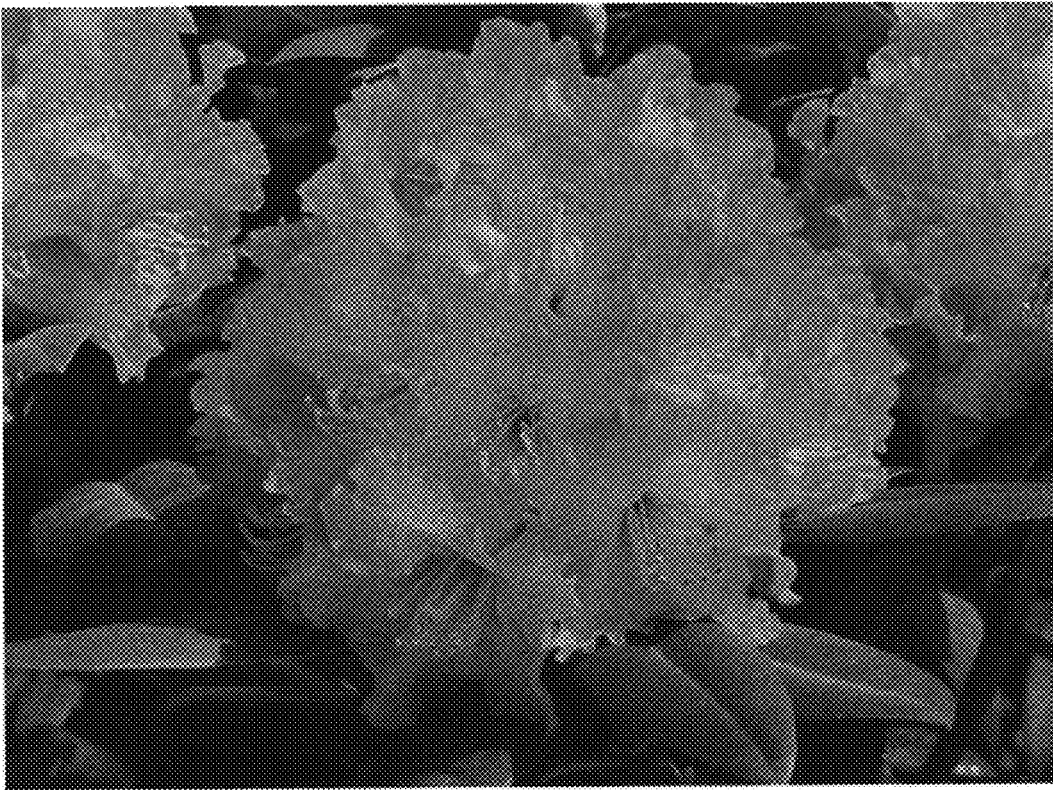


FIG. 3

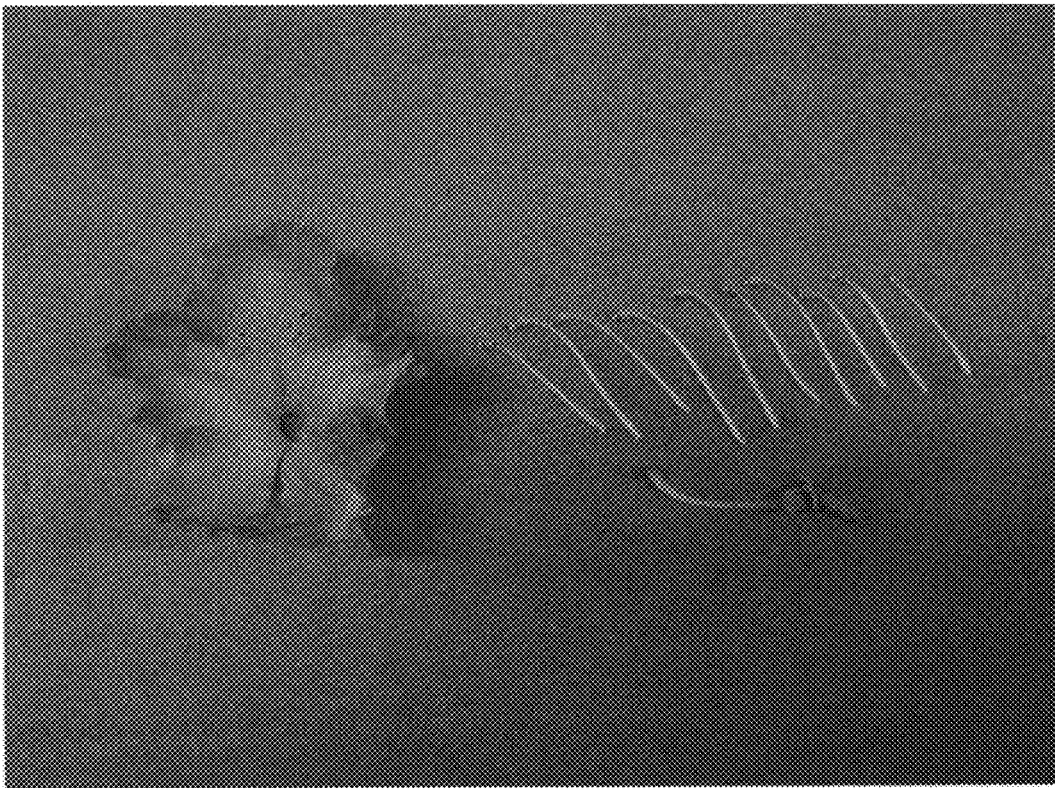


FIG. 4



FIG. 5