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(54) **VARIETY OF *PHORMIUM* PLANT NAMED 'FIT01'**

(50) Latin Name: *Phormium cookianum*
Varietal Denomination: **FIT01**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263.1**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Phormium cookianum* plant
named 'FIT01' characterized by shiny, deep blackish purple
leaves, a tall and wide growth habit with wide leaves, and a
robust appearance in adverse conditions.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of the
genus and species of the novel variety disclosed herein is
Phormium cookianum.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of the *Phor-*
mium disclosed herein has been given the variety denomina-
tion 'FIT01'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Phormium* plant, botanically known as *Phormium cooki-*
anum, and further known by the varietal name 'FIT01'. This
new variety is also sold under the trade name Black Adder
(Breeder's Ref. No. 'FIT01'). The new variety was created
through tissue culture mutation in Enniscorthy, Ireland, from
the variety *Phormium cookianum* 'Platts Black.' This variety
was selected as a single plant from a number of different
natural mutations in a tissue laboratory in March 2003. Five
different mutations were isolated for possible development,
from which the present invention was chosen for further
multiplication production. In January 2005, the cultures of
'FIT01' were further multiplied and the first crop began to
develop. The variety was grown in both pots and one large
original plant remains in situ outdoors. All plants were grown
in Kilkenny, Ireland. For purposes of this application, the
plants were evaluated outdoors and indoors in a plastic green
house.

Following selection of the plantlet, the cultivar was propa-
gated by tissue culture of multiplication from auxiliary grow-
ing shoots in a laboratory in Enniscorthy, Ireland. Continued
observation of future generations have confirmed that the
distinguishing features of this new cultivar came true, remain
stable and are retained through successive propagation.

The closest comparator to 'FIT01' known to applicant is
Phormium cookianum 'Platts Black' (unpatented). The
present cultivar is much more vigorous and resilient when
compared with 'Platts Black', and remains a healthier plant
in more adverse conditions than 'Platts Black'.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar 'FIT01' have not been observed under
all possible environmental and cultural conditions. The phe-

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notype of the new cultivar may vary somewhat with variations
in environment such as temperature, light intensity, length of
day, irrigation amount and frequency, and/or fertilizer rate
without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be among the unique characteristics of
'FIT01'. These characteristics distinguish 'FIT01' as a new
and distinct cultivar from its closest comparator *Phormium*
cookianum 'Platts Black':

1. Leaves are deep blackish purple all year; and
2. The foliage is more glossy and wider than 'Platts Black';
and
3. The growth habit is taller than 'Platts Black' and the leaf
is wider. For two year old specimens of 'FIT01' and
'Platts Black', the present cultivar demonstrated a 110
cm length leaf as compared with a 65 cm length for
'Platts Black' and the present cultivar had a 4.5 cm width
leaf as compared with a 3 cm width for 'Platts Black'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is depicted in the accompanying colored
photographs in which:

FIG. 1 shows a potted plant illustrating the characteristic
foliage.

The photograph depicts the overall appearance of the new
Phormium, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably
possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors
in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values
cited in the Detailed Botanical Description which more accu-
rately describe the actual colors of the new *Phormium*.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
NEW PLANT**

The following detailed description sets forth characteris-
tics of the new cultivar. The data which defines each charac-
teristic was collected from reproductions of the plant grown
in a plastic greenhouse and outdoors.

In the following table of plant characteristics, color refer-
ences are made to The Royal Horticultural Society of London
Colour Chart, 1995 Edition (hereafter "R.H.S.").

THE PLANT

Classification:

Botanical.—*Phormium cookianum*.

Varietal name.—‘FIT01’.

Parentage.—Tissue Culture Mutation of *Phormium cookianum* ‘Platts Black’.

Asexual propagation.—Tissue culture mutation.

Form:

Plant growth type.—Upright with drooping tips.

Mean plant height.—1.5 M.

Mean plant width.—1.5 M.

Leaves:

Leaf color.—Young Upper — Gray-purple to brown; in between N186C and 200B, but slightly darker (RHS) 15
Young Under — Gray-purple to brown, in between N186C and 200A, but slightly darker (RHS) Mature
Upper — Brown, 200A but slightly darker (RHS)
Mature Under — Brown, 200A (RHS).

Vein color.—Upper — Gray-Orange 177A (RHS) 20
Under — Brown 200A (RHS) Leaf Shape — Wide
lanceolate strap-like leaves Leaf Length — 73 cm (1
year old plant) Leaf Width — 3.4 cm (1 year old plant)
Tip Shape — Acute Base Shape — Acuminate
Margin — Entire.

Leaf texture (upper).—Shiny, waxy surface.

Venation pattern.—Parallel.

Flower: Flower development has not been observed on plants of the new *Phormium*.

5 Lasting quality: The *Phormium* is outstanding in wind and sun, as the foliage remains shiny and vibrant throughout the year. Providing the plant is not exposed to temperatures below -7° C., the plant will remain stable and colorful all year round.

10 Disease resistance: No known diseases have affected this plant to date.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

15 ‘FIT01’ is primarily distinguished from other cultivars of *Phormium* genus by its deep blackish purple leaves having a glossy shine. ‘FIT01’ is an upright forming plant with a wide and tall growth habit.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Phormium cookianum* plant named ‘FIT01’ substantially as illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1