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

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(54) ***HELLEBORUS* PLANT NAMED 'HF 1114'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Helleborus* x *nigercors* X *Helleborus* x *hybridus***
Varietal Denomination: **HF 1114**

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(72) Inventor: **Josef Heuger**, Glandorf (DE)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 22 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **18/389,586**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2018.01)
A01H 6/72 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./439**
CPC ***A01H 6/72*** (2018.05); ***A01H 5/02*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./439
CPC ... A01H 5/02; A01H 5/12; A01H 5/00; A01H 6/72
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP36,156 P2 * 9/2024 Heuger A01H 6/72 Plt./439

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant named 'HF 1114, characterized by its upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; dark green-colored leaflets with lighter green-colored venation; freely flowering habit; light greenish yellow-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Helleborus* x *nigercors* X *Helleborus* x *hybridus*.

Cultivar denomination: 'HF 1114'.

STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY INVENTOR/APPLICANT

An European Community Plant Breeder's Rights application for the instant plant was filed by the Inventor/Applicant, Mr. Josef Heuger of Glandorf, Germany, on Jun. 20, 2023, application number 2023/1370. Foreign priority is not claimed to this application.

The Inventor/Applicant asserts that no publications nor advertisements relating to sales, offers for sale or public distribution occurred more than one year prior to the effective filing date of this application. Any information about the claimed plant would have been obtained from a direct or indirect disclosure from the Inventor or Applicant. Inventor/Applicant claims a prior art exception under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(1) for disclosure and/or sales prior to the filing date but less than one year prior to the effective filing date.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant, botanically known as *Helleborus* x *nigercors* X *Helleborus* x *hybridus* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'HF 1114'.

The new *Helleborus* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to create new uniform *Helleborus* plants with unique and attractive plant habit, leaf and flower coloration and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses.

The new *Helleborus* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany in December 2015 of a proprietary selection of *Helleborus* x *nigercors* identified as code number P546, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent and a proprietary selection of *Helleborus* x *hybridus* identified as code number O1642, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Helleborus* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination grown in a controlled greenhouse environment in Glandorf, Germany in December, 2017.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* plant by in vitro axillary meristem culture in a controlled environment in Glandorf, Germany since April, 2018 has shown that the unique features of this new *Helleborus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Helleborus* 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 'HF 1114'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'HF 1114' as a new and distinct *Helleborus* plant:

1. Upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Dark green-colored leaflets with lighter green-colored venation.

4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Light greenish yellow-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are darker greenish yellow in color than flowers of plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Leaflets of plants of the new *Helleborus* are darker green in color than leaflets of plants of the male parent selection.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are lighter greenish yellow in color than flowers of plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can also be compared to plants of *Helleborus* x *ericsmithii* X *Helleborus* x *hybridus* 'COSEH 4200', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 28,297. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Helleborus* differ primarily from plants of 'COSEH 4200' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* have smaller flowers than plants of 'COSEH 4200'.
2. Flowers of plants of the new *Helleborus* are light greenish yellow in color whereas flowers of plants of 'COSEH 4200' are pink in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Helleborus* 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 slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Helleborus* plant.

The photograph at the top of the sheet (FIG. **1**) is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'HF 1114' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet (FIG. **2**) is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'HF 1114'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the winter in 17-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Glandorf, Germany and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Helleborus* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 12 C to 32 C and night temperatures ranged from 5 C to 12 C. Plants were 48 weeks old when the photographs were taken and 14 months old when the description was taken. 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 classification: *Helleborus* x *nigercors* X *Helleborus* x *hybridus* 'HF 1114'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus* x *nigercors* identified as code number P546, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus* x *hybridus* identified as code number O1642, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—In vitro axillary meristem culture.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 55 days at temperatures about 12 C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 170 days at temperatures ranging from about 4 C to 15 C.

Root description.—Thick to thin, fleshy; typically white to brownish 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.—Low branching; sparse.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit with flowers held within to slightly above the foliar plane; plant shape, roughly flattened globular; moderately vigorous growth habit and moderate growth rate.

Plant height, soil level to top of foliar plane.—About 21.2 cm.

Plant height, soil level to top of flowers.—About 22 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 41.8 cm.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Leaves arranged in a basal rosette; leaves palmately compound with typically five leaflets per leaf.

Leaf length.—About 20.7 cm.

Leaf width.—About 22.4 cm.

Leaflet length.—About 12.8 cm.

Leaflet width.—About 7.7 cm.

Leaf shape.—Palmate; roughly reniform in outline.

Leaflet shape.—Broadly ovate to broadly elliptic, occasionally narrowly obovate to oblovate.

Leaflet apex.—Acute.

Leaflet base.—Attenuate.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate; moderately coarsely undulate.

Leaflet texture and luster, upper surface.—Smooth, glabrous; coriaceous and tough; slightly glossy.

Leaflet texture and luster, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous; coriaceous and tough; matte.

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate and reticulate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaflets, upper surface: Slightly darker than a blend of 137A and 141B; at the base, close to 178A. Developing leaflets, lower surface: Close to 148B; venation, close to 177C. Fully developed leaflets, upper surface: Darker than a blend of 147A and N189A; towards the base, strongly tinged with close to 200A to 200B; venation, close to 144C. Fully developed leaflets, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 146C.

Petioles.—Length: About 15 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm by 7 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color, upper surface: Close to 146B; sparsely to moderately covered with fine dots, close to 199C to 199D; proximally, more heavily covered with fine dots, close to 200C. Color, lower surface: Close to

146C; moderately covered with fine dots, close to N199A; proximally, more heavily covered with fine dots, close to 200B.

Flower description:

Flower shape and habit.—Single rotate bowl-shaped flowers arranged in panicles; freely flowering habit with about twelve flowers per inflorescence and about 24 flowers and flower buds per plant; flowers face mostly outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about ten months after planting; plants flower naturally from late autumn into the winter in Germany.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About ten days; sepals persistent, other flower parts are not persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 3.1 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 cm. Shape: Ovate. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color: Close to a blend of 150D and 154D; towards the base, close to 149D.

Inflorescence height (including peduncle).—About 24.4 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 13.4 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 10.5 cm.

Flower depth.—About 3 cm.

Petals.—All petals are transformed into nectaries.

Sepals.—Quantity and arrangement: About five, arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 5.4 cm. Width: About 5.6 cm. Shape: Reniform; slightly concave. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Broadly cuneate. Margin: Entire; slightly undulate. Texture and luster, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Texture and luster, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 150D. When opening, lower surface: Close to a blend of 145D and 150D; at the base, close to 145B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 1D; towards the margins and apex, close to 150D and a blend of 150D and 157A; at the base, close to a blend of 145B and 145C; venation, similar to lamina colors; color does not change with subsequent development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 150D; at the base, close to 145B; venation, similar to lamina colors; color does not change with subsequent development.

Flower bracts.—Quantity per flower: Typically one or two. Length: About 8.5 cm. Width: About 5.7 cm. Shape: Broadly ovate to obovate. Apex: Acute to three-lobed. Base: Truncate to cuneate. Margin: Shallowly serrate; moderately to strongly coarsely undulate. Color, upper surface: Close to NN137B; at the base, close to 145B; venation, close to 145B. Color, lower surface: Close to a blend of 147B and 148B; at the base, tinged with close to 178A and 178B; midvein, close to 178A and 178B and lateral venation, close to 144C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 15.9 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm to 1.2 cm. Aspect: About 20 degrees from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 146C; heavily covered with fine dots, close to 183B.

Pedicels.—Length: About 3.3 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm. Aspect: About 17.5 degrees from peduncle axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; moderately glossy. Color: Close to 146D; heavily covered with fine dots, close to 183C and 183D.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 120. Filament length: About 2 cm. Filament color: Close to a blend of 150C and 150D. Anther shape: Double and broadly reniform; basifixed. Anther size: About 2 mm by 3 mm. Anther color: Close to 154C. Pollen amount: Sparse to moderate. Pollen color: Close to 4D to lighter than 4D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: About five. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Stigma diameter: About 0.3 mm. Stigma shape: Club-shaped. Stigma color: Close to 150D. Style length: About 0.95 mm. Style color: Close to 185C. Ovary color: Close to 150D. Nectaries (transformed petals): Quantity per flower: About 12 to 14. Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Tubular, flattened; apices, obtuse. Texture and luster, inner and outer surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; slightly glossy. Color, immature, inner and outer surfaces: Close to 144C; towards the apex, close to N144D. Color, mature, inner and outer surfaces: Close to N144C; towards the apex, close to 151B to 151C; venation, similar to lamina colors; with subsequent development, color becoming closer to 151C and towards the apex, closer to 153A to 153B. Seeds and fruits: To date, seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Helleborus*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind, high temperatures about 35 C and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 through 9.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Helleborus* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'HF 1114' as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *

FIG. 1

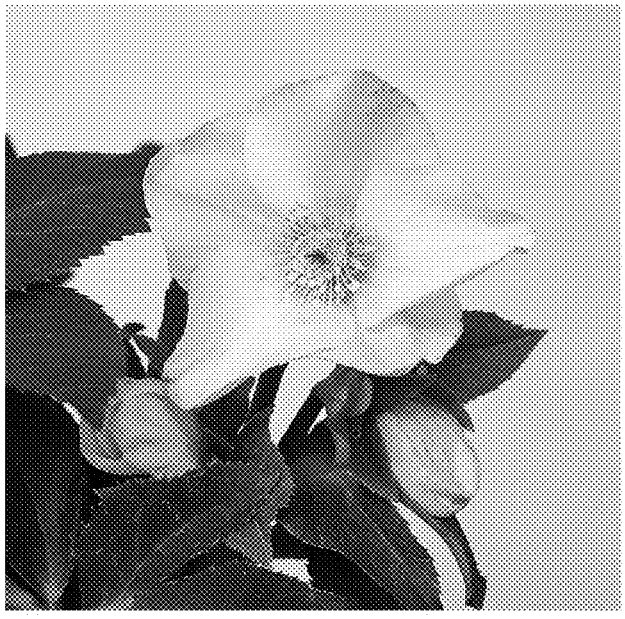

FIG. 2