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Hoekert

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(54) **CALLUNA PLANT NAMED 'NR 580'**

(50) Latin Name: *Calluna vulgaris*
Varietal Denomination: **Nr 580**

(76) Inventor: **Hendrick Cozijn Hoekert**, Edens
Creations, Zuiderzeestraatweg 410,
Wezep (NL)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./231**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./231
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—June Hwu
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Penny J Aguirre

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Calluna vulgaris*, 'Nr 580', characterized
by its upright plant habit, its bud flowering habit imparting a
long flowering period, its densely packed clear white flower
buds, its vigorous growth habit, and its cold hardiness to
U.S.D.A. Zone 4.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Calluna vulgaris*.
Variety denomination: 'Nr 580'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Calluna vulgaris* and will be referred to hereafter by its
cultivar name, 'Nr 580'. 'Nr 580' is a new cultivar of ever-
green shrub grown for use as a landscape plant.

The new invention arose as the result of an ongoing controlled
breeding program by the inventor in Wezep, The Netherlands.
The goal of the breeding program is to develop new cultivars
of *Calluna* that combine an upright growth habit and flowers
that exhibit strong, bright colors with a bud flowering habit.
'Nr 580' was selected as a single unique plant by the
inventor in September 2005 in a test garden in his nursery in
Wezep, The Netherlands. 'Nr 580' arose from a cross made in
September 2003 between a proprietary female parent designated
by accession No. K23618 and a proprietary male parent designated
by accession No. 23E27 (both unnamed and unpatented).

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accomplished
by the inventor using stem cuttings in September of 2005 in
Wezep, The Netherlands. The characteristics of 'Nr 580'
have been determined to be 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 as grown
outdoors in trial beds and containers in Wezep, The Netherlands.
These attributes in combination distinguish 'Nr 580' as a
unique cultivar of *Calluna*.

1. 'Nr 580' exhibits an erect, upright growth habit.
2. 'Nr 580' exhibits stems that are densely covered with
flowers that are clear white in color.
3. 'Nr 580' exhibits a bud flowering habit, which imparts a
long flowering period.
4. 'Nr 580' exhibits a vigorous growth habit.
5. 'Nr 580' is cold hardy to U.S.D.A. ZONE 4.

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'Nr 580' differs from both its parent plants in having a more
erect flowering habit and in having more densely packed
flowers. The closest comparison cultivars for 'Nr 580' are
cultivars from the same breeding program that are similar in
plant and flowering habit, 'Nr 5163' (U.S. Plant patent appli-
cation Ser. No. 12/284,556) and 'Nr 5157' (U.S. Plant patent
application Ser. No. 12/284,504). 'Nr 5163' differs in having
flowers that are red-purple in color while 'Nr 5157' differs in
having flowers that are pink-purple in color. 'Nr 580' can also
be compared to *Calluna vulgaris* var. *alba erecta* (not pat-
ented). 'Nr 580' is unique from var. *alba erecta* in that var.
alba erecta has a less upright plant habit with less flowers that
open. The flowers of 'Nr 580' remained closed (bud flower-
ing) and therefore 'Nr 580' blooms for a longer period of time.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall
appearance and distinct characteristics of a 2 year-old
plant of the new *Calluna* as grown outdoors in a 10 cm
container in Wezep, The Netherlands.

The photograph in FIG. 1 illustrates the overall appearance
of 'Nr 580' in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of the
flowers of 'Nr 580'.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the
foliage of 'Nr 580'.

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 *Calluna*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of 2 year-old plants
of the new cultivar as grown outdoors in 10 cm containers in
Wezep, The Netherlands. The plants were grown with an
average day temperature of 14° to 30° C. and an average night
temperature of 5° to 15° C. under ambient light. The pheno-
type of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environ-
mental, climatic, and cultural conditions, as it has not been
tested under all possible environmental conditions. The color

determination is in accordance with the 2001 RHS Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

General description:

Blooming period.—Blooms from late summer into early fall in Wezep, The Netherlands.

Plant habit.—Densely foliated and flowering, upright, evergreen shrub.

Height and spread.—Reaches about 21.5 cm in height and 24.3 cm width (2 year-old plant).

Hardiness.—Cold hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4 and withstands temperatures of at least 35° C.

Diseases resistance.—No particular resistance or susceptibility has been observed.

Root description.—Fine.

Growth and propagation:

Propagation.—Stem cuttings.

Root initiation.—Roots develop in about 20 days in summer (30 days in spring) under greenhouse conditions with ten the first 10 days under plastic.

Growth rate.—Vigorous.

Stem description:

Stem shape.—Round.

Stem strength.—Strong.

Stem color.—152A.

Stem size.—Lateral branches are an average of 11.4 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter.

Stem surface.—Slightly glossy and densely covered with very short, fine hairs.

Stem aspect.—Nearly upright to main stems.

Internode length.—Average of 2 mm.

Branching.—Freely branched from base with 10 main stems with an average of 11 lateral branches per main branch.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Oblong.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Decurrent.

Leaf apex.—Obtuse.

Leaf fragrance.—None.

Leaf venation.—None visible.

Leaf margins.—Entire and sparsely covered with very short, fine hairs.

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Leaf attachment.—Sessile.

Leaf number.—About 114 per lateral branch.

Leaf surface.—Glabrous and slightly glossy on upper and lower surface.

Leaf size.—Average of 1.5 mm in length and 0.5 mm in width.

Leaf color.—Newly expanded leaves upper and lower surface; 143A to 143B, mature leaves upper and lower surface; 137A.

Inflorescence description: (Flower descriptions refer to mature flower buds)

Flower type.—Solitary and arranged in small clusters (average of 6) of flower buds borne at the leaf axils, flowers remain in the bud stage and do not open.

Flower fragrance.—None.

Flower Lastingness.—Average of 4 weeks, self cleaning.

Flower bud description.—Immature; ovate in shape, an average of 3 mm in length and 1.8 mm in width, glabrous surface, 155C in color.

Flower quantity.—Average of 150 per lateral stem, over 15,000 per plant (2 years in age).

Flower aspect.—Held outward to upright.

Flower shape.—Ovate.

Flower size.—An average of 4 mm in depth and 2 mm in diameter.

Peduncles.—Average of 2 mm in length and 0.5 mm in diameter with an average angle to stem of 45°, 144A in color, moderate in strength, surface glabrous.

Pedicels.—None.

Calyx form.—Rotate in form, average of 1 mm in length and 2 mm in diameter.

Sepals.—5, average of 1 mm in length, 0.5 mm in width, broadly ovate in shape, entire margin, rounded apex, cuneate base, surface is smooth and dull in appearance, color of inner and outer surface 143A when bud is immature, 137A when bud is mature.

Petals.—5, only outer surface is visible as they remain closed, about 4 mm in length and 1.4 mm in width, ovate in shape, entire margin, bluntly acute apex, surface is velvety and glossy in appearance, color when first showing color, both surfaces; 155C, color mature, both surfaces; 155B to 155C, non-fading.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—None present, flowers are pistillate.

Pistils.—1, about 3 mm in length, stigma is club-shaped and 145C in color, style is an average of 2.8 mm in length and 145C with base 145A to 145B in color, ovary is 143A in color.

Fruit and seed.—None have been observed to form.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calluna* plant named 'Nr 580' as herein illustrated and described.

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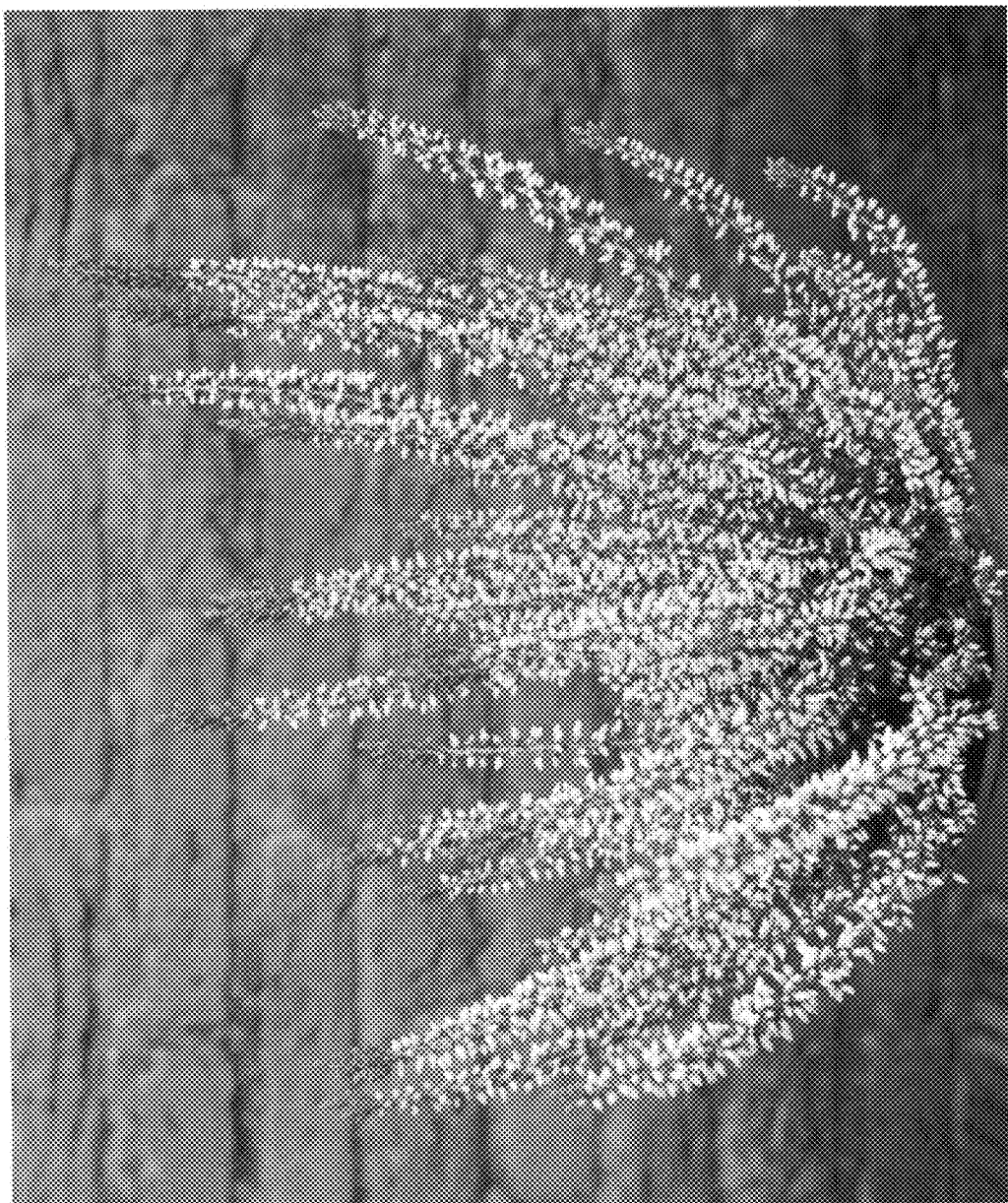


FIG. 1



FIG. 3



FIG. 2