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Lee

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(54) **AZALEA PLANT NAMED ‘LAZAMORAV’**

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

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Azalea plant named
‘Lazamorav’, characterized by its light lavender-colored
flowers, dark green-colored foliage, moderately vigorous,
compact, upright-mounded growth habit, and strong multi-
seasonal reblooming, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

2

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Rho-*
dodendron hybrid.

Variety denomination: ‘Lazamorav’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Azalea plant botanically known as *Rhododendron* hybrid
and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘Lazamorav’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Independence, La. during the spring of 1994.
The objective of the breeding program was the development
of Azalea cultivars with attractive flower color with multi-
seasonal blooming and that perform well in the garden.

The new Azalea cultivar is the result of cross-pollination.
The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is ‘Gumpo
White’, not patented, characterized by its white-colored
flowers, light green-colored foliage, low growth vigor and
mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new
cultivar is ‘Fourth of July’, not patented, characterized by its
dark orange-colored flowers, dark green-colored foliage,
and vigorous, upright growth habit. The new cultivar was
discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within
the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during the
fall of 1998 in a controlled environment in Independence,
La.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since the fall of 1998 in Independence, La. and later
in Loxley, Ala. and Irvington, Ala. has demonstrated that the
new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the charac-
teristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained
through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
‘Lazamorav’ as a new and distinct cultivar of Azalea plant:

1. Light lavender-colored flowers;
2. Dark green-colored foliage;
3. Moderately vigorous, compact, upright-mounded
growth habit; and
4. Strong multi-seasonal reblooming.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in having strong repeat blooming, a differ-
ent flower color, and higher growth vigor. Plants of the new
cultivar differ from the male parent in having a different
flower color and reduced growth vigor.

Of the many commercially available Azalea cultivars, the
most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is Autumn
Lilac ‘Robles’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,762. However, in side
by side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from
plants of ‘Robles’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a different flower color
than plants of ‘Robles’;
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a smaller diameter
corolla than plants of ‘Robles’; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar are shorter than plants of
‘Robles’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the
new cultivar. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly
from the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describes the colors of ‘Lazamorav’. The plants
were grown in 2-gallon containers for 9 months outdoors in
Irvington, Ala. Plants were given one pinch at transplant.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of ‘Lazamorav’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower
of ‘Lazamorav’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible

that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where 5
general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in April 2015 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe 10
plants produced from semi-hardwood stem cuttings from stock plants. Rooted plants, liners, were transplanted into 2-gallon containers utilizing a soilless growth medium. Plants were given one pinch at transplant and grown for 15
approximately 9 months outside in Irvington, Ala. under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. Average winter temperatures ranged from 63° F. to 42° F. (17° C. to 5° C.) and average summer temperatures ranged from 91° F. to 72° F. (33° C. to 22° C.). Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron* hybrid cultivar Lazamorav.

Parentage:

Female parent.—‘Gumpo White’, not patented.

Male parent.—‘Fourth of July’, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Semi-hardwood stem cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—Approximately 25 to 30 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—Approximately 60 to 70 days.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; initially white in color becoming light brown with age.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 10 months from a rooted cutting to finish in a 1-gallon container.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Perennial, evergreen flowering shrub; moderately vigorous, upright-mounded growth habit.

Size.—Height from soil level: Approximately 40.0 cm. Width: Approximately 56.0 cm.

Branching habit.—One main trunk, freely branching, pinching improves lateral branching. Quantity of primary lateral branches per plant: Approximately 8. Quantity of secondary lateral branches: Approximately 3 to 8 per primary branch.

Primary lateral branches.—Strength: Very strong, rigid. Length: Approximately 33.0 cm. Diameter at midpoint: Approximately 6.0 mm. Texture: Woody, rough. Color: 200A to 200B.

Secondary lateral branches.—Strength: Very strong, flexible. Length: Approximately 23.5 cm. Diameter at midpoint: Approximately 3.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 1.2 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent, hairs appressed. Color of young branches: Closest to 151D. Color of mature branches: N199B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Leaf retention: Very good winter leaf retention. Fragrance: None detected. Form: Simple. Arrangement on flowering stem: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem, blades extend downward with age. Shape: Elliptic. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute, mucronulate. Base: Broadly attenuate.

Venation pattern: Pinnate, finely reticulate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 4.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 1.8 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Densely pubescent, hairs appressed, leathery. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 137B with venation of 147D or indistinguishable from leaf surface. Color of lower surface of young foliage: Closest to 138B with venation of 147D or indistinguishable from leaf surface. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: N137A with venation of 146C or indistinguishable from leaf surface. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to 146C with venation of closest to 151A or indistinguishable from leaf surface.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent, hairs appressed. Color: 146D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Lazamorav’ flowers in spring from early March to mid-April and then remontant flowering during spring and autumn.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Flowers are durable and long-lasting; depending on the temperature flowers can last approximately one week on the plant.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Single, open funnel-shaped, non-persistent. Arrangement: Terminal clusters of 3 to 9 flowers and buds in whorls, approximately 8 clusters per plant. Fragrance: None detected.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2 to 3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Obovoid. Length: Approximately 2.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 8.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 70B.

Corolla.—Length: Approximately 7.3 cm. Width: Approximately 7.5 cm. Depth: Approximately 5.0 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: 5, fused to form a tube that extends 3.5 cm from the base to the free portions between the upper and lateral petals and extends 2.0 cm to 2.5 cm from the base to the free portions of the lower petals, unfused portions imbricate. Shape: Obovate. Appearance: Velvety. Margin: Entire, undulate. Apex: Obtuse. Length of free portion: Approximately 2.5 cm. Width: Approximately 2.8 cm to 2.6 cm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous, tube portion densely pubescent with very short hairs. Texture of lower surface: Glabrous. Color of upper surface when first and fully open: 77B to 77C with centers of 77D and speckles of 60A on upper and lateral petals, main color fades to 75A during senescence. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: Slightly lighter than 77B to 77C with centers of lighter than 77D and midveins of upper petals tinted 58B, main color fades to 77C with senescence.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5, fused at base. Shape: Narrowly ovate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of upper (inner) surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower (outer) surface: Densely pubescent, hairs appressed. Color of upper (inner) surface: 144A. Color of lower (outer) surface: Between 144C and 144D.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 1.4 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: 145B to 145C tinted with 185B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 9 to 10. Stamen length: Approximately 4.5 to 5.0 cm. Filament length: Approximately 4.4 to 4.9 cm. Filament texture: Lower portion densely pubescent with very short colorless glands. Filament color: 77B. Anther shape: Bilobed, dorsifixed. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 77C darkens to N186A with age. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: NN155A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 5.5 cm. Stigma shape: Round, capitate. Stigma length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Stigma color: N167B. Style

length: Approximately 5.0 cm. Style color: 58C to 58D. Ovary length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Ovary texture: Densely pubescent with long white hairs. Ovary color: N137B.

5 Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed. Garden performance and temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Azalea have been observed to be very tolerant to rain, wind and are suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 7 to 9.

10 Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to Azalea has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Azalea plant named
‘Lazamorav’, substantially as herein illustrated and
15 described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2