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Kardos et al.

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(54) **GARDENIA JASMINOIDES PLANT NAMED**
'DOUBLE MINT'

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./255
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Gardenia jasminoides*
Varietal Denomination: **Double Mint**

(56) **References Cited**

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PUBLICATIONS

(73) Assignees: **Plant Introductions, Inc.**, Watkinsville,
GA (US); **University of Georgia**
Research Foundation, Inc., Athens, GA
(US)

Lantana Catalog Page (distributed at a trade show Jan. 5, 2011)
"Gardenia Double Mint", 1 pg.

Plant Introductions, Inc. webpage, (downloaded Dec. 30, 2011)
"Gardenia jasminoides selections", <http://www.plantintroductions.com/gardeniaselections.html>, 3 pgs.

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Gardenia jasminoides* plant
named 'Double Mint', characterized by fragrant, double
white flowers, abundant flowers in spring with reblooming to
fall, lustrous, dark green foliage, compact rounded growth
habit, cold hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 7, and resistance
to root rot diseases.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

3 Drawing Sheets

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./255**

1

2

Genus and species of plant claimed: *Gardenia jasmi-*
noides.

Variety denomination: 'Double Mint'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Gardenia jasminoides*, a member of the Rubiaceae family,
hereinafter referred to by its cultivar name 'Double Mint'.
This cultivar is grown primarily as an ornamental for land-
scape use and for use as a potted plant.

The new *Gardenia* cultivar originated from an open-pollina-
tion of *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Chuck Hayes' (U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 8,755) as part of a planned breeding program to
develop reblooming, double-flowered *Gardenias*. The culti-
var 'Double Mint' originated and was discovered in a culti-
vated environment in an outdoor nursery in Watkinsville, Ga.

'Double Mint' has been asexually reproduced by softwood
cuttings in Watkinsville, Ga. since 2008, and the characteris-
tics of the cultivar have been stable and reproduced true-to-
type in successive vegetative generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'Double Mint' has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary some-
what with changes in light, temperature, soil and rainfall
without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been observed and represent the
characteristics of the new cultivar. In combination these char-
acteristics distinguish 'Double Mint' from all other varieties
in commerce known to the inventor. 1) Fragrant, double white
flowers. 2) Abundant flowers in spring with reblooming to
fall. 3) Lustrous, dark green foliage. 4) Compact rounded
growth habit. 5) Cold hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 7. 6)

Resistance to root rot diseases. There are no other cultivars of
Gardenia jasminoides with this combination of characteris-
tics known to the inventor.

'Double Mint' is distinguished from its female parent,
'Chuck Hayes', by its growth habit, foliage size, and winter
foliage color. 'Double Mint' has a smaller, more compact
growth habit than 'Chuck Hayes'. 'Double Mint' has smaller
foliage than 'Chuck Hayes'. 'Double Mint' has foliage that
maintains its dark green color during winter, whereas 'Chuck
Hayes' has foliage that often turns yellow-green in winter.

'Double Mint' can be compared to 'Crown Jewel' (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 19,896), but differs in the following character-
istics. 'Double Mint' has a rounded growth habit, whereas
'Crown Jewel' has a spreading growth habit. 'Double Mint'
has smaller foliage than 'Crown Jewel'. 'Double Mint'
reblooms from spring to fall, whereas 'Crown Jewel' only
flowers in spring. 'Double Mint' is more resistant to root rot in
production than 'Crown Jewel'.

'Double Mint' can be compared to 'Leeone' (U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 21,983), but differs in the following characteristics.
'Double Mint' has a rounded growth habit, whereas 'Leeone'
has an upright, globose growth habit. 'Double Mint' has
smaller foliage than 'Leeone'. 'Double Mint' has smaller
flowers than 'Leeone'. 'Double Mint' flowers more abund-
antly than 'Leeone'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying illustrations show characteristics of the
new cultivar in photographs as true to color as is reasonably
possible to make in illustrations of this nature. 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 *Gardenia*.

FIG. 1 shows the overall appearance of a plant of 'Double Mint' planted in the ground.

FIG. 2 shows the overall appearance of a plant of 'Double Mint' in a container.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of a flower of 'Double Mint'. 5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Plants used for the description were approximately 2 years old and were grown in 8 L containers in full sun under outdoor conditions in Watkinsville, Ga. 10

Botanical classification: 'Double Mint' is a cultivar of *Gardenia jasminoides*. 15

Parentage: The current variety is a progeny from an open-pollination of *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Chuck Hayes' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,755).

Plant description: The claimed variety is a freely branching, rounded, evergreen shrub. The plant is hardy in USDA Zones 7 to 9.

Propagation.—Stem cuttings. Time to initiate roots in summer: about 4 weeks. 25

Root description.—Numerous, fibrous, and well-branched.

Plant size.—About 68 cm high from the soil level to the top of the foliage and about 70 cm wide after about 4 years. 30

First year stems.—Having a diameter of about 3 mm. Shape: round. Pubescence: finely hairy.

First year stem color (young).—146B. Color (woody): 199A. 35

Stem strength.—Flexible when young, more easily broken once mature.

Internode length.—About 2.3 cm.

Second year and older stems.—Have a diameter of about 5 mm or more. Shape: round. Pubescence: none. 40

Second year and older stem color.—N199B.

Bark.—Some stringy exfoliation beginning on second year stems.

Trunk diameter.—About 1.7 cm at the soil line. Color: N200A. 45

Vegetative bud description:

Vegetative buds.—Arrangement: opposite. Shape: conical, single-scaled. Size: about 3 mm in length, about 1 mm in width; Color: 143A. 50

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite. Length: about 4.2 cm. Width: about 1.7 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical. Apex: acuminate. Base: cuneate. Margin: entire to revolute.

Texture (upper and lower surfaces).—Glabrous, lustrous, no pubescence. 55

Venation.—Pinnate. Venation color (upper and lower surfaces): 144B.

Color of emerging foliage.—144A on the upper surface, and 144B on the lower surface. Color of mature foliage: 147A on the upper surface, and 146B on the lower surface. 60

Petiole length.—About 1 mm. Petiole diameter: about 2 mm. Petiole texture: glabrous. Petiole color (upper and lower surfaces): 144B. 65

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Flowers are borne singly at the terminals and the crotches where two stems divide. Individual flowers are showy for about 2 days and remain on the plant for about 1 to 2 weeks after they have senesced. Bloom period: spring to frost. Flowers are produced abundantly from May to June, and then sporadically through November in Watkinsville, Ga. Fragrance: Exceedingly sweet fragrance.

Flower diameter.—About 5 cm. Height or depth: about 4 cm.

Flower bud diameter.—About 1 cm. Flower bud length: about 2.5 cm. Flower bud shape: oblong. Flower bud color: 144A.

Calyx.—About 2.5 cm in length, about 1.5 cm in width, and 144A in color.

Pedicels.—About 2 cm in length, glabrous, and 144A in color.

Petals:

Quantity.—6 to 8 true petals and 16 to 18 petaloids per flower. 20

True petal length.—About 2.4 cm. Width: about 2.3 cm. Shape: obovate with entire, undulating margins and overlapping in arrangement to form a whorl. Texture: thick, glabrous. Color: at peak bloom the upper and lower surfaces are 155C aging to 11C and eventually to N199D before dehiscing.

Petaloid petal length.—Ranges from 1.5 to 2.5 cm, becoming smaller toward the center of the flower. Width: ranges from 1.1 to 2.1 cm, becoming smaller toward the center of the flower. Shape: Texture: thick, glabrous. Color: at peak bloom the upper and lower surfaces are 155C aging to 11C and eventually to N199D before dehiscing.

Stamens:

Quantity.—4 to 6 per flower, sometimes petaloid or malformed. There is no separate filament structure present, instead the anthers are fused to the base of the petals. Anthers: about 8 mm long and about 2 mm wide. Color: 199A. Pollen: is either nonexistent or produced in small quantities and color is 8B.

Pistils:

Quantity/arrangement.—One per flower, inferior. Pistil length: about 1.8 cm. Pistil diameter: about 4 mm. Stigma shape: obovate, about 7 mm length and about 4 mm in diameter. Stigma color: 1C. Style: color is 154D, about 6 mm in length, and about 1.5 mm in width. Ovary: color is 2C, about 5 mm in length, about 4 mm in width, ellipsoid in shape, and contains many (50 or more) very small (less than 1 mm) ovules.

Fruit:

Type/appearance.—Six-winged berry, oval in shape. Fruit length: about 2.5 cm. Fruit diameter: about 2 cm. Fruit color at maturity: N170A. Quantity: Fruit is rarely produced and the number of fruit per plant varies depending on the size and maturity of the plant. Seeds: rounded in shape, about 2.5 mm in diameter, 164C in color, and each berry contains many seeds, about 100 or more.

Disease/pest resistance: No specific pest or disease resistance or susceptibility has been observed.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Gardenia augusta* plant named 'Double Mint', substantially as illustrated and described herein.



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3