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# United States Patent [19]

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Potter

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[54] **HEBE 'MARGRET'**

[57] **ABSTRACT**

[75] Inventor: **G. Dennis Potter, Pickering, England**

A new and distinct cultivar of Hebe having a semi-dwarf to dwarf compact habit. The selection is a profuse bloomer in late May to early June with later flushes in late summer and fall, especially if earlier dead flower spikes have been removed. The flowering racemes stand well above the foliage. Individual blossoms are initially of sky blue color. These fade to a paler blue and then to white, giving an unusual bicolor effect. Because of its compact habit the plant is ideal for use in borders or in containers.

[73] Assignee: **Blooms of Bressingham, Ltd., Norfolk, England**

[21] Appl. No.: **802,003**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 25, 1991**

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup> ..... **A01H 5/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **Plt./67.2**

[58] Field of Search ..... **Plt./67.2**

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3 Drawing Sheets

## 1

## 2

The present invention relates to a new and distinct dwarf or semi-dwarf variety of evergreen shrub of the genus *Hebe*, a member of the Scrofulariaceae or Figwort family.

### DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new *Hebe* variety. All color determinations and comparisons are based on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.

This new *Hebe* is the result of a breeding program and is a cross between *Hebe* 'Carl Teschner' and *Hebe* 'Mauve Queen'. The new variety has been reproduced from cuttings. Each of the progeny of the first and succeeding generations exhibit characteristics identical to those of the mother plant. The parents were chosen in an attempt to reproduce the hardiness of *Hebe* 'Carl Teschner' with the profuse flowering ability of *Hebe* 'Mauve Queen'. This particular selection appears to have accomplished that goal. It has the added characteristic of flowering for a longer period than is usual in the *Hebes* tending to dwarf habit. These dwarf-tending *Hebes* most often have small flower spikes in relation to the size of the shrub so that the flowering plant appears to lack continuity. *Hebe* 'Margret' is a profuse bloomer with relatively large flower spikes. It presents the appearance of an entire shrub being in synchronous heavy bloom rather than showing irregularly distributed blossom spikes.

- Origin: Seedling selection.
- Parentage: A cross between *Hebe* 'Carl Teschner' and *Hebe* 'Mauve Queen'.
- Habit: Semi-dwarf to dwarf. Compact.
- Size: Mature plants are about 160 mm (6 inches) tall with a spread of about 400 mm (16 inches).
- Plant vigor: The shrub shows vigorous and healthy growth throughout Great Britain.
- Blooming habit: Prolific. Entire shrub covered with a dense mass of blossom spikes.
- Blooming period: Late May to early June with later flushes into late summer and fall.
- Hardiness: Winter hardy throughout the British Isles. The plant has not been tested for maximum summer temperature tolerance.

The habit of *Hebe* 'Margret' is distinct in that it has the upright characteristics of a taller growing variety with the many flower spikes appearing well above the foliage. This is in contrast to other dwarf *Hebes* that in many cases have a sprawling habit. The sky blue flower spikes appear in profusion in late May followed by several flushes in late summer and fall, sometimes as late as December. Other *Hebes* of similar size tend to have an initial flowering period with only spasmodic flowering to follow. As time passes the flowers fade to pale blue and then to white producing an unusual bicolor effect. Continuity of flowering is encouraged by removal of dead flower spikes.

### FOLIAGE

- Arrangement: Stiff, alternate and opposite on brownish, wiry stems.
- Type: Evergreen leaves on woody shrub.
- Texture: Glossy, very slightly hairy upper surface. Glossy, slightly hairy lower surface.
- Shape: Elliptic.
- Length: About 14 mm.
- Width: About 6 mm.
- Petiole: Absent.
- Margins: Entire.
- Apex: Cuspidate.
- Base: Rounded.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

### FLOWERS

FIG. 1 is a view of *Hebe* 'Margret' growing in a border setting.

- Petal:
  - Count.—Four.
  - Shape.—Elliptic.
- Flower type: Joined at base in short tube. Zygomorphic.
- Carpels: Very small.
- Stamens: Very small.

FIG. 2 is a closer view showing bud, flower and leaf color and characteristics.

FIG. 3 is a view of the plant in a container emphasizing its compact habit.

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Blooming habit: Approximately 30 flowers in axillary racemes, some branched.

Blooming period: Late May or early June, followed by several flushes in later summer and fall.

COLOR CHARACTERISTICS

Foliage:

*Mature leaves.*—Upper surface RHS Fan 3, Green Group No. 143 B; lower surface RHS Fan 3, Green Group No. 143 C.

Flowers:

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*Petals.*—RHS Fan 2, Violet-Blue Group No. 91 B, fading to Blue Group No. 108 C, then to white.

I claim:

5 1. A new and distinct cultivar of 'Hebe' substantially as shown and described, characterized by semi-dwarf to dwarf compact habit, profuse blooming in late May to early June with later flushes in late summer and fall, upstanding flower spikes appearing well above the foliage, the sky blue flowers fading to pale blue and then white giving a distinctive bicolor effect.

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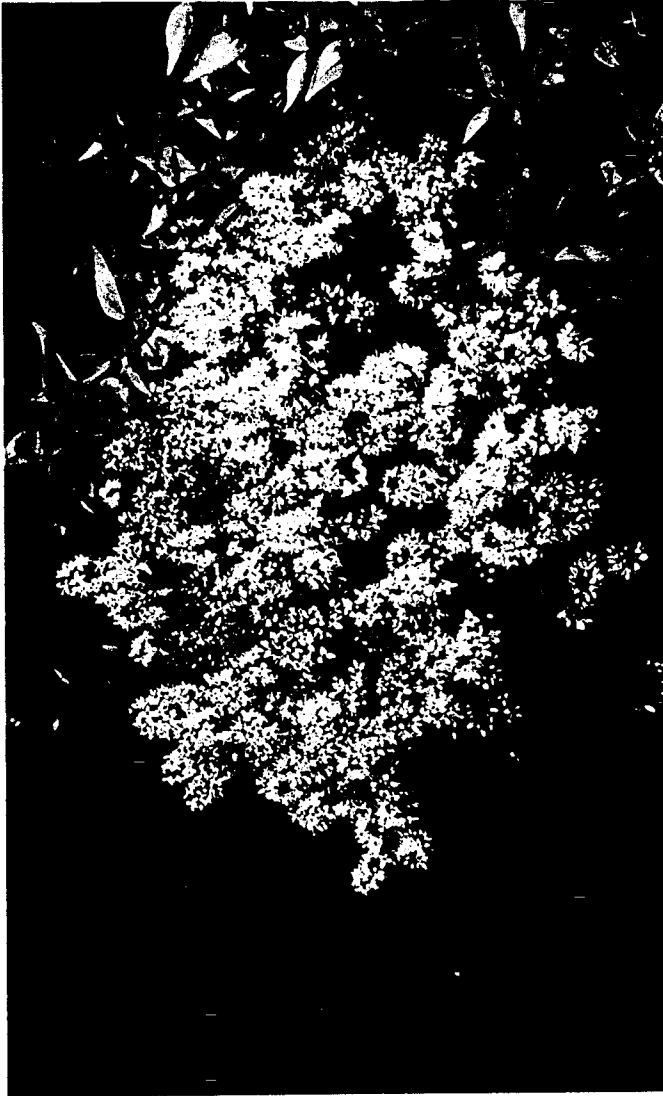
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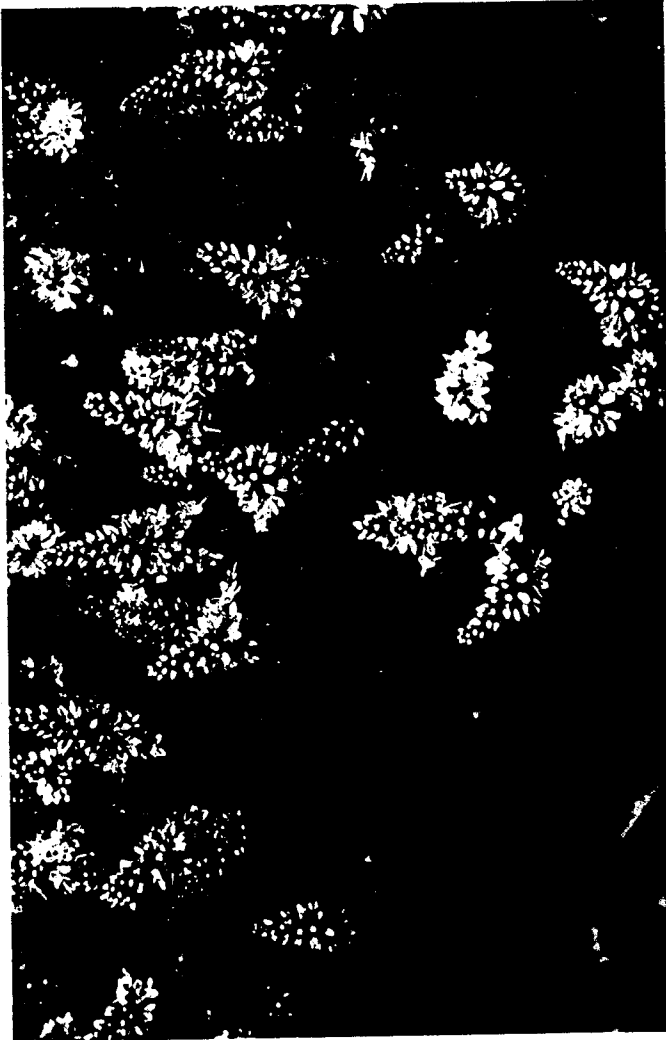
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*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*