



US00PP19269P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,269 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 23, 2008**

(54) **CERATOSTIGMA PLANT NAMED ‘MY LOVE’**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./226
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Ceratostigma willmottianum*
Varietal Denomination: **My Love**

(56) **References Cited**

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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PP12,822 P2 * 8/2002 Moolenaar Plt./226
PP13,953 P3 * 7/2003 Crocker Plt./226

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 106 days.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Wendy C. Haas

(21) Appl. No.: **11/650,785**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 5, 2007**

A new cultivar of *Ceratostigma* named ‘My Love’ that is
characterized by compact habit, intense golden-yellow
foliage, and clear-blue flowers in summer. In combination
these traits set ‘My Love’ apart from all other existing vari-
eties of *Ceratostigma* known to the inventor.

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./226**

2 Drawing Sheets

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Genus: *Ceratostigma*.
Species: *willmottianum*.
Denomination: ‘My Love’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of plumbago, an ornamental plant suitable for use as a single
species container plant or as a shrub for small gardens. The
new cultivar is known botanically as *Ceratostigma willmot-*
tianum and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar
name ‘My Love’.

The new *Ceratostigma* cultivar named ‘My Love’ is a
seedling selection that resulted from a controlled breeding
program initiated in 1989. Cross-pollination was conducted
by the inventor using an individual *Ceratostigma willmotti-*
anum ‘Forest Blue’ (unpatented) as the female parent, and an
individual *Ceratostigma willmottianum* ‘Desert Skies’
(unpatented) as the male parent. The cross-pollination was
accomplished at the inventor’s nursery in Hampshire, United
Kingdom. Both parents had been previously raised and
introduced by the inventor.

Seed husks were collected in November 1999 from a plant
of *Ceratostigma* ‘Forest Blue’. Seed from the husks was
sown the following February 2000 and the resulting seed-
lings were grown out. Three seedlings showing yellow
leaves were isolated from the batch and grown on and the
most compact form was selected and given the name of
Ceratostigma ‘My Love’ based on the criteria of compact
habit and intense golden-yellow foliage.

The female parent ‘Forest Blue’ exhibits compact habit,
and the male parent ‘Desert Skies’ exhibits yellow foliage. In
addition to being distinguishable from the female parent by
foliage color ‘My Love’ is robust and more compact than the
female parent. ‘My Love’ is distinguishable from the male
parent by compact habit. The new *Ceratostigma* variety
named ‘My Love’ exhibits compact habit, intense golden-
yellow foliage, and clear blue flowers. Blooming is prolific

and occurs in summer. Plant dimensions at maturity are 30
cm in height and 60 cm in width. ‘My Love’ is hardy to
USDA Zone 7 and is deciduous. Cultural recommendations
include full sun or part shade, moderate to regular water, and
moderately fertile well-draining soil.

The new *Ceratostigma* cultivar ‘My Love’ was first asexu-
ally propagated by the inventor in Hampshire, United King-
dom. Asexual propagation was conducted in 2001 and the
method used was semi-ripe stem cuttings. Since that time,
under careful observation, the distinguishing characteristics
have been determined stable, uniform, and reproduce true to
type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics
of the new *Ceratostigma* cultivar named ‘My Love’. In com-
bination these traits set ‘My Love’ apart from all other exist-
ing varieties of *Ceratostigma* known to the inventor. ‘My
Love’ has not been tested under all possible conditions and
phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however,
without any variance in genotype.

1. ‘My Love’ exhibits compact habit.
2. ‘My Love’ exhibits clear-blue flowers in summer.
3. ‘My Love’ exhibits intense golden-yellow foliage.
4. ‘My Love’ is winter deciduous.
5. ‘My Love’ is drought tolerant.
6. ‘My Love’ reaches 30 cm. in height and 60 cm. in width
at maturity.
7. ‘My Love’ is hardy to USDA Zone 7.
8. ‘My Love’ is asexually propagated using the method of
semi-ripe cuttings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Ceratostigma* cultivar named ‘My

Love' showing the color as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Color in the drawings may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual color of the new variety 'My Love'.

The drawing labeled FIG. 1 depicts a side view of the plant illustrating habit.

The drawing labeled FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flower.

All drawings were made using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance, they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed botanical description of the new *Ceratostigma* cultivar named 'My Love'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from plants grown out-of-doors in 1-liter containers. Color determinations are in accordance with The 2001 Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of London, England except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species.

Botanical classification: *Ceratostigma willmottianum* 'My Love'.

Family: Plumbaginaceae.

Genus: *Ceratostigma*.

Species: *willmottianum*.

Denomination: 'My Love'.

Common name: Plumbago.

Plant use: Ornamental for use in container or small garden.

Parentage: *Ceratostigma willmottianum* 'My Love' is a seedling selection that resulted from the deliberate open cross-pollination of the following parents:

Female parent.—An individual *Ceratostigma willmottianum* 'Forest Blue'.

Male parent.—An individual *Ceratostigma willmottianum* 'Desert Skies'.

Type: Shrub.

Vigor: Vigorous.

Habit: Compact.

Dimensions (at one year): 23 cm in height and 30 cm in width.

Dimensions (at maturity): 30 cm. in height and 60 cm in width.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 7.

Asexual propagation: Semi-ripe cuttings.

Root system: Fine.

Cultural conditions: Full sun or partial shade, moderate to regular water, and fertile well-draining soil.

Time to initiate roots: 4–6 weeks.

Crop time: 4–8 months to produce a finished 1-liter container.

Disease or pest susceptibility: Susceptible to two spotted red spider mite.

Seasonal interest: Clear-blue flowers in summer, and intense golden-yellow foliage color spring, summer, and fall.

Stem:

Stem shape.—Angular.

Internode length (average).—1 cm.

Stem width.—2 mm.

Stem length (average).—12 cm.

Stem surface.—Bristled.

Stem color.—144A.

Foliage:

Foliage type.—Winter deciduous.

Arrangement.—Whorled.

Division.—Simple.

Shape.—Broadly oblanceolate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Apex.—Acute.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Vein color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).—N144A.

Attachment.—Sessile.

Stipules.—Absent.

Margin.—Entire and ciliate.

Length (range).—2 cm to 2.75 cm.

Width (range).—1 cm to 1.50 cm.

Leaf color (adaxial surface).—153D.

Leaf color (abaxial surface).—151D.

Leaf surfaces (adaxial and abaxial).—Pubescent.

Foliar fragrance.—None observed.

Flower:

Inflorescence form.—Terminal spikelet.

Inflorescence width.—6 cm.

Peduncle dimensions.—0.40 cm in length and 2 mm in width.

Peduncle shape.—Terete.

Flower shape.—Rotate.

Flower quantity.—9–12 flowers per inflorescence.

Lastingness of flower (on plant).—Average of 2 days per flower.

Flower diameter.—1.50 cm.

Flower depth.—1.50 cm.

Flower aspect.—Outward to upward.

Corolla tube diameter.—2 mm.

Corolla tube length.—0.75 cm.

Corolla tube shape.—Terete.

Corolla tube surfaces (ventral and dorsal).—Glabrous.

Corolla tube color.—100D.

Petals.—5 in number.

Petal shape.—Obdeltoid.

Petal apex.—Emarginate.

Petal base.—Attenuate.

Petals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Petal color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).—Ranges between N109B, N109C and 105D.

Petal surface (abaxial and abaxial).—Glabrous.

Petal surface (adaxial).—Glabrous.

Petal width.—6 mm.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Sepals.—Five in number.

Sepal margin.—Entire.

Sepal shape.—Lanceolate.

Sepal surfaces (adaxial and abaxial).—Pubescent.

Sepal dimensions.—9 mm. in length and 3 mm. in width.

Fused or unfused.—Sepals are overlapping.

Sepal apex.—Aristate.

Blooming period.—Summer.

Fragrance.—None observed.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—5 in number.

Stamen attachment.—Basally fused.

Stamen color.—155B.

Stamen dimensions.—1 cm in length and <1 mm in width.

Anther attachment.—Dorsifixed.

Anther dimensions.—2 mm in length and <1 mm in width.

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Anther color.—102A.
Pollen color.—104D.
Pollen quantity.—Moderate.
Pistil.—One.
Pistil color.—155B.
Pistil dimensions.—1.50 cm in length and <1 mm in width.
Stigma.—Forked filaments.
Stigma color.—155B.

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Stigma dimensions.—1 mm in length and <1 mm in width.
Style shape.—Filament.
Style color.—155B.
Style dimensions.—1 cm in length and <1 mm in width.
Seed.—None observed to date.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct variety of *Ceratostigma* plant named 'My Love' as described and illustrated herein.

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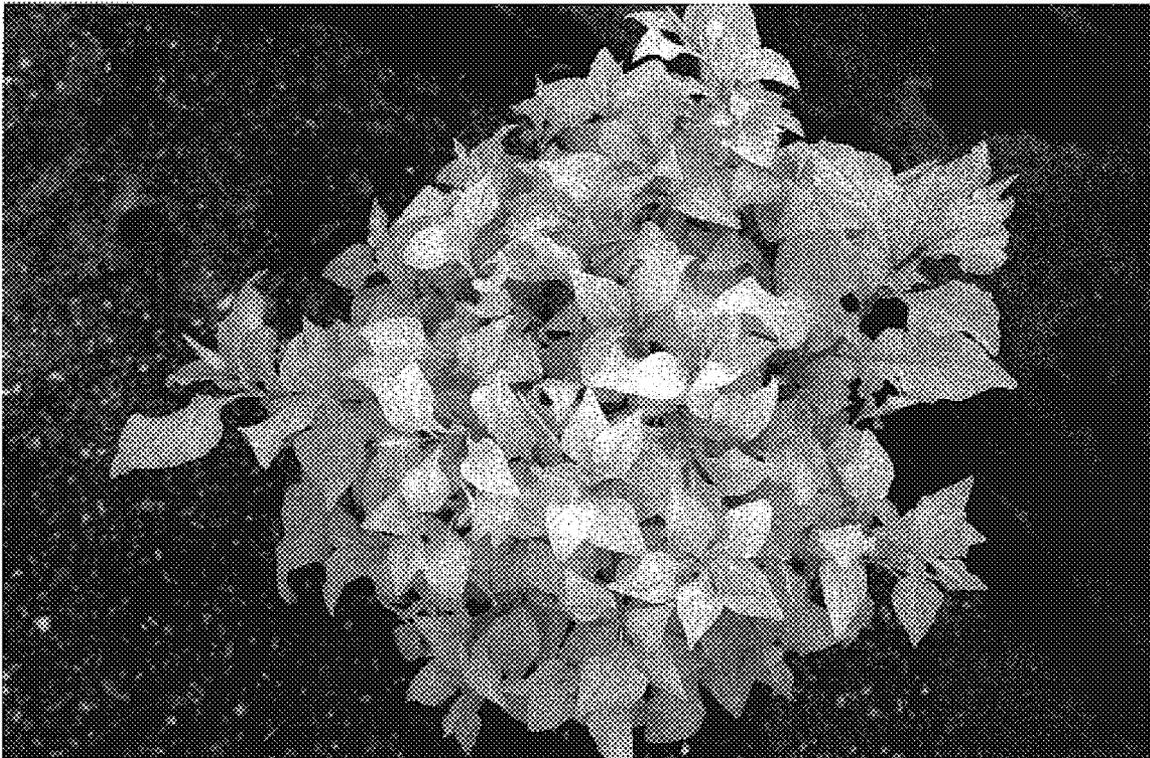


FIG. 1



FIG. 2