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**Sills et al.**

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(54) **BLACKBERRY PLANT NAMED**  
**‘DRISBLACKFOUR’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus***  
Varietal Denomination: **DrisBlackFour**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
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**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... Plt./203

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USPC ..... Plt./203  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP23,497 P3 \* 3/2013 Clark et al. .... Plt./203  
PP24,249 P3 \* 2/2014 Clark ..... Plt./203

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of Black-  
berry plant named ‘DrisBlackFour’, particularly character-  
ized by improved storage life, late flowering season, and  
excellent fruit flavor and appearance, is disclosed.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

Genus and species: *Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*.  
Variety denomination: ‘DrisBlackFour’.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct black-  
berry cultivar designated ‘DrisBlackFour’ and botanically  
known as *Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*. This new blackberry  
variety was identified in Ventura County, Calif. in April 2005  
and originated from a cross between the female parent black-  
berry plant ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,758)  
and the male parent blackberry plant ‘BH917-6’ (unpat-  
ented). The original seedling of the new cultivar was first  
asexually propagated at a nursery in Santa Cruz County,  
Calif. in 2005. ‘DrisBlackFour’ was subsequently asexually  
propagated and underwent further testing at a nursery in Los  
Reyes, Mexico from 2007 to 2010. The present invention has  
been found to be stable and reproduce true to type through  
successive asexual propagations.

Plant Breeder’s Rights for this variety have not been  
applied for. ‘DrisBlackFour’ has not been made publicly  
available or sold more than one year prior to the filing date of  
this application.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing  
characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal  
horticultural practices in Los Reyes, Mexico.

1. Improved storage life;
2. Late flowering season; and
3. Excellent fruit flavor and appearance.

**2**

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

This new Blackberry plant is illustrated by the accompa-  
nying photographs which show the plant’s canes, fruit, and  
leaves. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably  
obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The pho-  
tographs are of plants that are 2 years old.

FIG. 1 shows a section of a young cane with spines.

FIG. 2 shows the flowers and the fruit at various stages.

FIG. 3 shows the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following descriptions of ‘DrisBlackFour’ are based  
on observations made in Los Reyes, Mexico on 2-year old  
plants. This description is in accordance with UPOV termi-  
nology. Color designations, color descriptions, and other phe-  
notypical descriptions may deviate from the stated values and  
descriptions depending upon variation in environmental, sea-  
sonal, climatic and cultural conditions. ‘DrisBlackFour’ has  
not been observed under all possible environmental condi-  
tions. Color terminology follows The Royal Horticultural  
Society Colour Chart, London (R.H.S.) (2007 edition).  
Descriptive terminology is from the *Plant Identification Ter-  
minology, An Illustrated Glossary 2<sup>nd</sup>* edition, by James G.  
Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, unless where otherwise  
defined.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:

*Family*.—Rosaceae.

*Botanical*.—*Rubus* L. subgenus *Rubus*.

*Common name*.—Blackberry.

*Variety name*.—‘DrisBlackFour’.

## Parentage:

*Female parent*.—Proprietary blackberry plant named ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,758).

*Male parent*.—Proprietary blackberry plant named ‘BH917-6’ (unpatented).

## Plant:

*Vigor (health and hardiness of plant)*.—Low.

*Growth habit*.—Upright.

*Productivity*.—Medium.

*Propagation*.—Tissue culture and root cuttings.

*Self-fruitfulness*.—Self-fruitful.

*Time of bud burst*.—Late.

## Canes:

*Fruiting lateral length (4<sup>th</sup> lateral from tip)*.—Average: Medium; 39.5 cm. Range: 35.0 cm to 45.0 cm.

*Number of fruit per lateral*.—Average: 10.0. Range: 8.0 to 12.0.

*Fruiting on current year’s cane*.—Present.

*Cane internodal distance*.—Average: 6.1 cm. Range: 5.0 cm to 7.0 cm.

*Number of new canes during flowering*.—Many.

*New cane strength (observed full-grown shoot after picking)*.—Medium.

*Glaucosity observed on full-grown shoot after picking*.—Medium.

*Spines*.—Size: Large. Color: RHS 151A (Light yellow-green). Density on central third of cane: Medium. Texture: Rigid. Attitude of apex in relation to cane: Outwards.

*Young shoots*.—Quantity: Medium. Emergence from soil: Early. Anthocyanin coloration (during rapid growth): Medium; RHS 146A (Dark yellow-green). Intensity of green color: Medium; RHS 144A (Medium yellow-green). Number of glandular hairs: Absent or few.

*Dormant cane*.—Length: Long. Diameter (in central third): Medium. Cross section (from mid cane observed at end of first growing season): Rounded. Color: RHS 146A (Dark yellow-green). Number of branches: Many. Distribution of branches: Over whole length. Anthocyanin coloration: Weak; RHS 139C (Medium green). Spines: Present. Number of spines: Few.

## Leaves:

*Type*.—Odd-pinnate.

*Predominant number of leaflets*.—3.

*Overlapping or relative position of lateral leaflets*.—Touching.

*Color*.—Upper surface: RHS 146A (Dark yellow-green). Lower surface: RHS 146B (Dark yellow-green).

*Arrangement*.—Opposite.

*Glossiness*.—Very weak.

*Cross section profile*.—Convex (margins rolled backwards).

*Leaflets*.—Shape: Ovate. Margin: Crenate. Depth of incisions: Shallow. Type of incision margin: Bi-serate. Apex: Truncate. Base: Obtuse. Rachis length between terminal leaflet and adjacent lateral leaflet: Average: 1.2 cm. Range: 0.5 cm to 1.7 cm.

*Lateral leaflet (basal pair)*.—Length: Average: 7.3 cm. Range: 6.2 cm to 8.8 cm. Width: Average: 4.7 cm. Range: 4.1 cm to 5.4 cm. Length/width ratio: 1.5.

*Terminal leaflet*.—Length: Average: Medium; 9.0 cm. Range: 6.4 cm to 11.0 cm. Width: Average: Medium;

7.0 cm. Range: 5.0 cm to 10.0 cm. Length/width ratio: 1.3. Lobing: Absent. Undulation of margin (rippling of margin): Medium. Blistering between veins (rugosity): Very weak. Shape: Oval to ovate. Tip: Complex. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Crenate. Cross-section: V-shaped.

*Petiole*.—Length average: 4.5 mm. Length range: 3.0 mm to 6.0 mm. Diameter average: 1.48 mm. Diameter range: 1.1 mm to 1.8 mm. Pigmentation: Upper surface: Lightly; RHS 146C (Medium yellow-green). Lower surface: Medium; RHS 152A (Medium yellow-green).

*Stipule*.—Size: Medium. Orientation: Erect.

## Inflorescence:

*Time of beginning of flowering on previous year’s cane*.—Late.

*Time of beginning of flowering on current year’s cane*.—Late.

*Flower diameter*.—Average: Medium; 4.76 cm. Range: 4.20 cm to 5.40 cm.

*Flower number (at 3<sup>rd</sup> node from tip of lateral)*.—Average: 4. Range: 4 to 5.

*Petal*.—Length: Average: 2.4 cm. Range: 2.1 cm to 2.7 cm. Width: Average: 1.6 cm. Range: 1.4 cm to 1.8 cm. Length/width ratio: 1.5. Color: RHS 155B (White).

*Pedicel*.—Length: Average: 21.55 mm. Range: 7.51 mm to 37.94 mm. Diameter: Average: 1.33 mm. Range: 1.04 mm to 1.83 mm.

## Fruit:

*Time of ripening on previous year’s cane*.—Medium.

*Time of ripening on current year’s cane*.—Medium.

*Harvest interval*.—Mid January through mid March.

*Color*.—Immature: RHS 151A (Light yellow-green). Maturing: RHS 183A (Dark greyed-purple). Mature: RHS N186A (Dark greyed-purple).

*Glossiness*.—Medium.

*Shape in longitudinal section*.—Long conical.

*Size*.—Large.

*Length*.—Average: Medium; 3.25 cm. Range: 2.90 cm to 3.60 cm.

*Width*.—Average: Medium; 2.14 cm. Range: 1.70 cm to 2.50 cm.

*Ratio of length to width*.—1.5; Longer than broad.

*Weight (g/fruit)*.—13.2.

*Soluble solids (%) (in Brix)*.—16.0.

*Titrateable acidity: (% as citric acid)*.—0.89.

*Seed weight (g/seed)*.—0.00463579.

*Number of drupelets/fruit*.—100.

*Size of drupelet*.—Medium.

*Firmness*.—Very firm.

*Yield*.—High.

## Disease, pest, and stress resistance:

*Botrytis fruit rot*.—Resistant.

*Powdery mildew*.—Resistant.

*Verticillium wilt*.—Resistant.

*Leather rot*.—Resistant.

*Leaf scorch*.—Resistant.

*Leaf blight*.—Resistant.

*Black root rot*.—Resistant.

*Tetranychus urticae*.—Moderately resistant.

*Tarsonemus pallidus*.—Moderately resistant.

*Aphelenchoides fragariae*.—Moderately resistant.

*Pratylenchus penetrans*.—Moderately resistant.

*Ditylenchus dipsaci*.—Moderately resistant.

*Anthonomus rubi*.—Moderately resistant.

*Aphis spp. (Aphids)*.—Moderately resistant.

*Lygus hesperus (Lygus bug)*.—Moderately resistant.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND  
COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

‘DrisBlackFour’ differs from the female parent ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,758) in that ‘DrisBlackFour’ has medium productivity, very firm fruit, and long conical shaped fruit in longitudinal section, whereas ‘Sleeping Beauty’ has moderately high productivity, medium firm fruit, and elliptical shaped fruit in longitudinal section. Additionally, ‘DrisBlackFour’ has dormant canes that are rounded in cross-section, whereas ‘Sleeping Beauty’ has dormant canes that are angular to grooved in cross section.

‘DrisBlackFour’ differs from the proprietary male parent ‘BH917-6’ (unpatented) in that ‘DrisBlackFour’ has smaller

fruit, better flavor, and less fruit breakdown in storage than ‘BH917-6’. Additionally, ‘DrisBlackFour’ has plants that are darker green in color than ‘BH917-6’.

‘DrisBlackFour’ differs from the commercial variety ‘Driscoll Eureka’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,765) in that ‘DrisBlackFour’ has an upright growth habit, late flowering, medium fruit glossiness, and large sized fruit, whereas ‘Driscoll Eureka’ has an semi-erect growth habit, very early flowering, strong fruit glossiness, and medium sized fruit.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of blackberry plant named ‘DrisBlackFour’ as described and shown herein.

\* \* \* \* \*

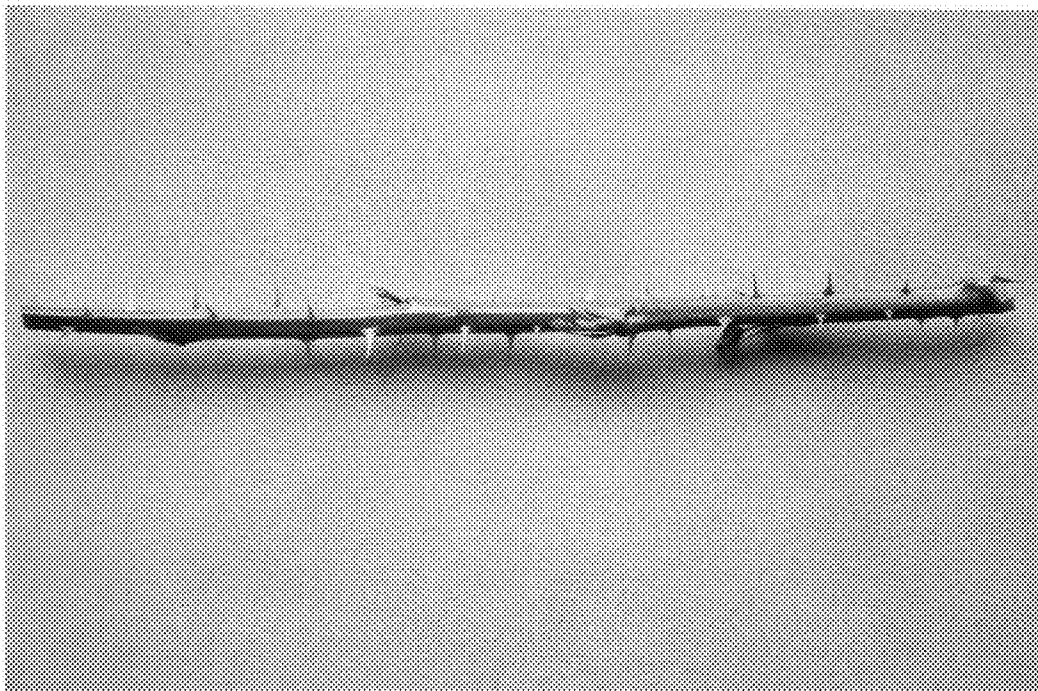


FIG. 1

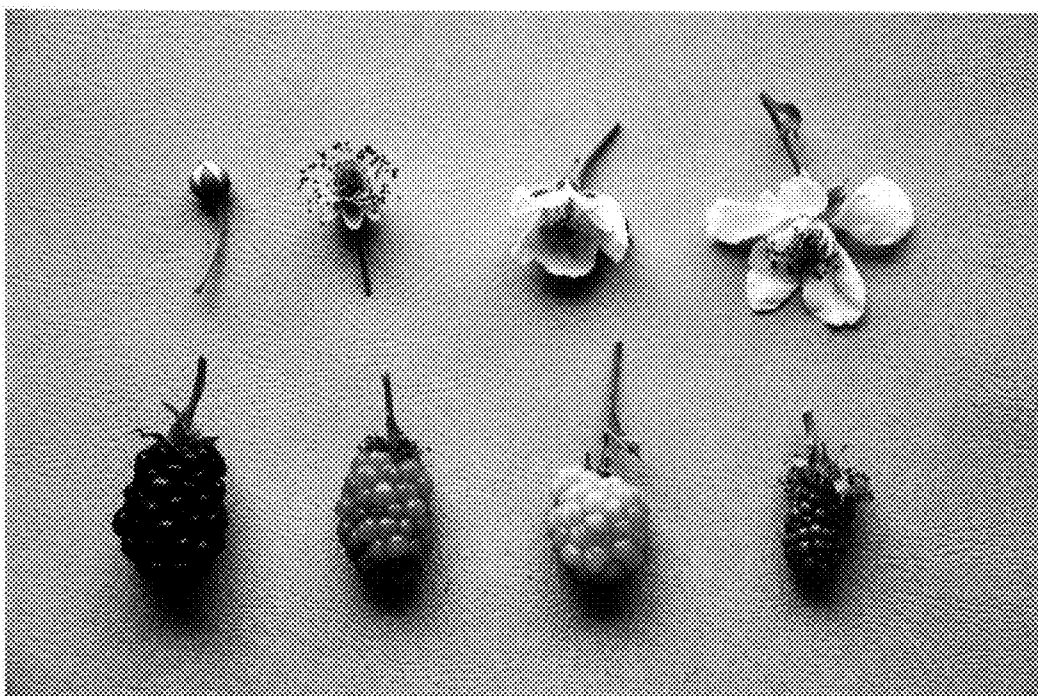
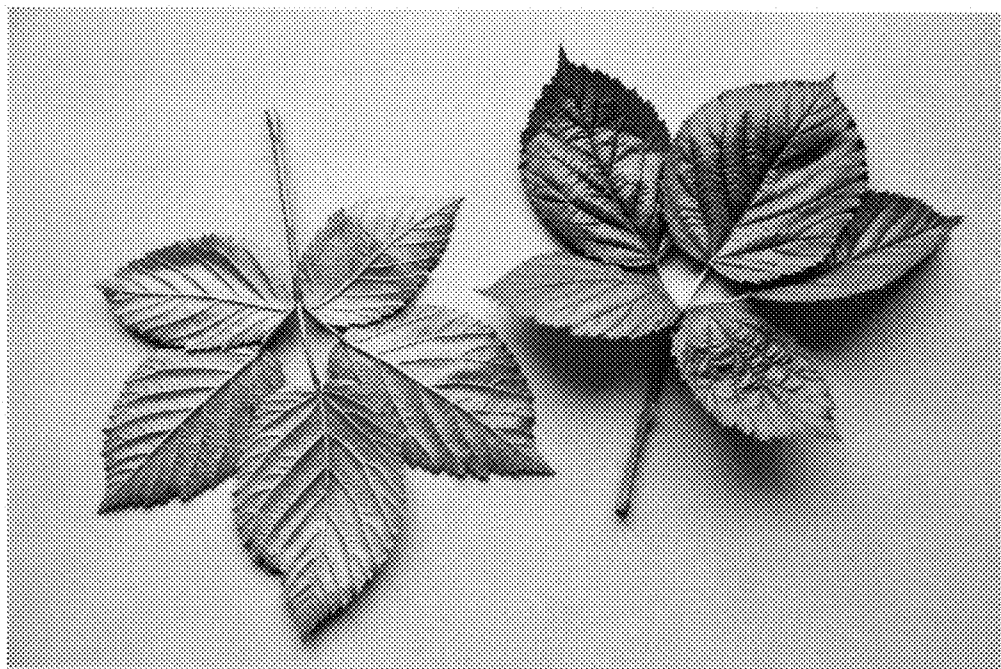


FIG. 2



**FIG. 3**