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Heuger

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(54) **HELLEBORUS PLANT NAMED ‘COSEH 700’**
(50) Latin Name: *Helleborus niger*×*Helleborus lividus*
Varietal Denomination: **COSEH 700**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./439**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./439**
See application file for complete search history.

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

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus* plant named
‘COSEH 700’, characterized by its upright and mounded
plant habit; medium green-colored leaves; freely flowering
habit; and large light green-colored flowers.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/319,409**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 7, 2009**

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

1 Drawing Sheet

1

2

Botanical designation: *Helleborus niger*×*Helleborus livi-*
*du*s.

Cultivar denomination: ‘COSEH 700’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Helleborus* plant, botanically known as *Helleborus niger*×
Helleborus lividus, and hereinafter referred to by the name
‘COSEH 700’.

The new *Helleborus* plant is a product of a planned breed-
ing program in Glandorf, Germany. The objective of the
breeding program was to create new uniform *Helleborus*
cultivars with unique and attractive flower coloration and
resistance to pests.

The new *Helleborus* plant originated from a cross-pollina-
tion conducted by the Inventor in Glandorf, Germany in Janu-
ary, 2003 of an unnamed proprietary seedling selection of
Helleborus niger, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent
with a proprietary selection of *Helleborus lividus* identified as
code number 05-03, not patented, as the male, or seed, parent.
The new *Helleborus* plant was discovered and selected by the
Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny
of the stated cross-pollination grown in a controlled green-
house environment in Glandorf, Germany in December,
2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Helleborus* plant by divi-
sions in a controlled greenhouse environment in Glandorf,
Germany since February, 2006, has shown that the unique
features of this new *Helleborus* plant are stable and repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been observed under
all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may
vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural
practices such as temperature and light intensity without,
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘COSEH 700’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘COSEH
700’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Helleborus*:

1. Upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Medium green-colored leaves.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Long flowering period.
5. Large light green-colored flowers.

Compared to plants of the parent selections, plants of the
new *Helleborus* are more uniform and more freely flowering.

Plants of the new *Helleborus* can be compared to plants of
Helleborus niger×*Helleborus sternii* ‘HGC Silvermoon’,
disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,639. Plants of the new
Helleborus differ primarily from plants of ‘HGC Silver-
moon’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Helleborus* are not as vigorous as
plants of ‘HGC Silvermoon’.
2. Plants of the new *Helleborus* and ‘HGC Silvermoon’
differ in leaf and flower color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the over-
all appearance of the new *Helleborus* plant, showing the
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed
botanical description which accurately describe the colors of
the new *Helleborus* plant. The photograph comprises a side
perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘COSEH 700’
grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observa-
tions, measurements and values describe plants grown in
Glandorf, Germany in 15-cm containers during the winter in
an outdoor nursery and under conditions which closely
approximate commercial *Helleborus* production. During the
production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 5° C.
to 32° C. and night temperatures ranged from 1° C. to 25° C.
Plants had been growing for one year when the photograph
and the description were taken. 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.

Botanical classification: *Helleborus niger*×*Helleborus livi-*
*du*s ‘COSEH 700’.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary seedling selection of *Helleborus niger*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Helleborus lividus* identified as code number 05-03, not patented. 5

Propagation:

Type.—By divisions.

Time to initiate roots.—About 56 days at 4° C. to 12° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About six months at 4° C. to 12° C. 10

Root description.—Thick to thin, fleshy; white to brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Sparse.

Plant description: 15

Plant form and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; upright and mounded plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 20 cm to 25 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 25 cm to 35 cm. 20

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Palmately compound with three to five leaflets per leaf.

Leaf length.—About 4 cm to 8 cm. 25

Leaf width.—About 2.5 cm to 5.5 cm.

Leaflet shape.—Roughly ovate.

Leaflet apex.—Acute.

Leaflet base.—Asymmetrically acute.

Leaflet margin.—Serrate. 30

Leaflet texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; leathery.

Leaflet venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Leaflet color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Darker than 191A. Fully developed leaves, upper surface: Darker than 147A; venation, close to 146B. Fully developed leaves, lower surface: Darker than 147B; venation, close to 166A. 35

Petiole.—Length: About 5 mm to 10 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 200A. 40

Flower description:

Flower shape and habit.—Single rotate flowers; freely flowering habit, about 30 to 40 flowers developing per plant. Petals not observed. 45

Fragrance.—Moderately to strongly fragrant, pleasant.

Natural flowering season.—Long flowering period; plants flower from December to March in Germany. 50

Flower longevity on the plant.—About three weeks; flowers persistent.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1 cm to 2 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm to 12 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 145C; towards the base, overlain with close to 183D.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 7 cm to 8 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm to 3 cm.

Sepals.—Arrangement: About five in a single whorl. Length: About 3.5 cm to 4 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm to 4 cm. Shape: Broadly ovate to rounded. Apex: Rounded. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 145C; towards the margins, close to 145D. When opening, lower surface: Close to 145D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 145B; color becoming closer to between 138B and 139D with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Between 157B and 145C; towards the base, overlain with close to 183B.

Peduncles.—Strength: Strong. Length: About 20 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm to 10 mm. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 145C; towards the base, overlain with close to 183D.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 100. Anther shape: Elliptical. Anther length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Anther color: Close to 7B. Pollen amount: None observed.

Pistils.—Quantity per flower: About five. Pistil length: About 1.5 cm. Stigma shape: Pointed. Stigma color: Close to 150D. Style length: About 8 mm. Style color: Close to 150D. Ovary color: Close to 150D. Nectaries: Quantity per flower: About 13. Length: About 1 cm. Shape: Salverform. Color: Towards the base, close to 145A; towards the apex, close to 2B. Seeds/fruits: Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures from about—10° C. to about 36° C.

Pathogen/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Helleborus* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Helleborus*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Helleborus* plant named 'COSEH 700' as illustrated and described.

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