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W. W. KNICELY ET AL

Plant Pat. 3,370

AZALEA PLANT

Filed March 26, 1971



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3,370

AZALEA PLANT

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1 Claim

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of azalea plant resulting from crossing certain azalea selections in a program of controlled hybridization. The seed parent is identified by #36 and the pollen parent by #1040. Both of these parents are unnamed and unpatented and identified by the above numbers to distinguish the parents from other parents in the breeding program.

The new cultivar is similar in many respects to the cultivar Dorothy Gish, having the same characteristics as Dorothy Gish of an early season response and ease of budding and forcing. The new cultivar is distinguished from Dorothy Gish by the following characteristics when grown under comparable conditions:

1. Color a more intense orange rather than salmon.
2. Flower form is a single, semi-double; not a hose-on-hose single.
3. Flowers approximately one-half to one inch larger in diameter.
4. Foliage larger and more glossy green in color.
5. No tendency toward wild water shoot growth.

The new cultivar is also similar in certain respects to the unpatented cultivar Fireglow, which is a sport of the commercially well-known cultivar, Redwing. The cultivar Fireglow referred to herein is not to be confused with the Kurume type evergreen azalea clone arising as a seedling of Hinodegiri, originated by Mayo Nurseries, Augusta, Ga., and referred to on page 264 of Lee, F. D., 1965. The Azalea Book, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc. The cultivar referred to in the publication is not currently available commercially. The new cultivar has the same characteristics as Fireglow of:

1. An early season response in year-round programs.

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron hybrida* evergreen type

	Firecrown	Dorothy Gish	Fireglow
Flower:			
Color (winter color in Barberton, Ohio):			
General tonality	Orange red, near 7.5R4/10	Salmon, nearest 2.5R6/12	Orange red, near 5R/14, not as intense.
Sepals first divide	Orange red, near 7.5R4/12	Salmon pink, near 2.5R5/10	Orange red, near 5R4/12.
Petals unfurl	Orange red, near 7.5R4/10	Salmon, 3.75R5/12	Orange red, near 5R5/12.
Fully open:			
Inside of petals	do	Salmon, 2.56R12	Orange red, near 5R5/14, not as intense.
Reverse side of petals	Orange red, lighter than 7.5R4/10	Salmon, 2.5R6/12, but lighter	Lighter orange red, 5R5/12.
Base of petals	Salmon, 5R6/12	Blush pink, 2.5R9/2	Salmon pink, 10R27/8.
Outer hose	None	Salmon, nearest 2.5R6/12	Light pink, nearest 8.75R6/12, but much lighter, with green.
Variations:			
Blotch	Dark red, 7.5R3/12	Dark red, near 5R3/10 but darker	Deep orange red, better 5R4/12 and 5R3/10.
Discoloration as ages	Holds relative color as it ages, becomes a dark orange, 5R4/10 when collapsed.	Fades to light salmon, near 2.5R7/6 or lighter before collapsing.	Fades to salmon, 3.75R5/12 or lighter.
Bud:			
Size	Medium		
Form	Conoidal		
Opening habit	Fully expanded petals, rosebud-like, full cup-like; retains cup-like form.	Fully expanded rosebud-like full, open cup-like, retains cup-like form.	Fully expanded rosebud-like full open cup-like retains cup-like form.
Bloom:			
Size	Large	Medium	Medium
Average	2.8"	2"	2"
Range	2" to 3 1/2"	1 1/4" to 2 1/2"	1 1/4" to 2 1/2"
Borne	Several together		
Average	2.9	3.1	2 1/2
Range	1-4	1-4	1-5
Form	Slightly semi-double with varying degrees of petaloid anthers. Never fully petaloid. Normal flower calyx.	Hose-on-hose single with completely petaloid calyx.	Single with half formed petaloid hose.
Blooming habit	Once, profusely		
Response:	Early, December flowering possible in all areas of the United States.		
Natural season			
Year-round	Early, sets bud early and uniformly under wide range of environmental conditions.		

Botanical classification: *Rhododendron hybrida* evergreen type

	Firecrown	Dorothy Gish	Fireglow
Sepals "bud sheath"	Normal, smooth hairy, dries up and falls off.	Normal, smooth, somewhat hairy, dries up and falls off.	Normal, smooth, hairy, persistent.
Calyx	Normal	Petaloid	Imperfect.
Peduncle:			
Length	Long	Medium	Long.
Aspect	Hairy		
Strength	Strong		
Petals:			
Texture	Soft		
Appearance:			
Inside	Waxy	Satin	Satin.
Outside	do	do	do.
Form	Rounded with wavy margins	Rounded with wavy margins	Rounded and somewhat notched.
Arrangement	Imbricate	Imbricate	Imbricate.
Frangrance	None		
Persistence	Shatter with age	Nonshattering	Shatters readily.
Longevity:			
Greenhouse	2 weeks	2 weeks	7-10 days.
Home	3 weeks	3 weeks	2 weeks.
Reproductive organs:			
Stamen	5-10, some petaloid quite variable	5-10 some petaloid, quite variable	5-10, normal.
Another	Normal, deep purple, near 5R2/8	Normal if present, brownish salmon, near 7.5R6/6	Normal, purplish red, near 2.5R2/8.
Filaments	Thin pubescent, color salmon, near 5R5/10	Quite thin, smooth, blush pink, 5RP8/6	Thin, smooth, salmon red, near 3.75R5/14.
Style	Generally columnar, color red, near 5R4/14	Columnar, normal, color salmon pink, near 1.25R6/12	Columnar, normal, color base, light salmon pink, 2.5R8/6 blending to dark salmon pink, 1.25R5/12 tip.
Stigma	Normal, color brown, near 5YR4/4	Normal, brownish pink near est to 5R5/8 but lighter.	Normal, brownish red, near 5R4/10.
Ovaries	Hypogynous		
Fruit	None		
Folage:			
Type	Evergreen		
Leaflets:	Single		
Size:			
Length average	2"	1 ¹ / ₂ "	2"
Range	1"-2 ¹ / ₂ "	1 ¹ / ₂ "-2 ¹ / ₂ "	2 ¹ / ₂ "-3 ¹ / ₂ "
Width average	0.8"	1 ¹ / ₂ "	2 ¹ / ₂ "
Range	0.5-1 ¹ / ₂ "	5/8"-7/8"	3/4"-1"
Shape:	Obovate		
Texture:			
Upper side	Glossy, waxy	Glossy, waxy	Dull, waxy.
Reverse side	Smooth, dull	Glossy	Dull.
Rib and mid veins	Slightly depressed	Slightly depressed	Slightly depressed.
Edge	Smooth	Smooth	Slightly notched.
Color:			
New foliage:			
Upper side	Light green 5G Y6/8	Green, 5G Y4/6	Green, 5G Y4/6.
Reverse side	Light green, 5G Y7/8	Light green, 5G Y6/6	Light green, 5G Y6/6.
Mature foliage:			
Upper side	Very dark green, 5G Y2/2	Dark green, 5G Y3/4	Dark green, 10G Y2/4.
Reverse side	Gray green, 7.5G Y4/4	Gray green, 5G Y5/4	Gray green, 7.5G Y4/4.
Petiole	Short, hairy light green 5G Y7/16	Short, hairy green, 5G Y6/8	Short, hairy green, 5G Y4/6.
Plant:			
Growth habit	Compact, upright with dome top	Compact, semi-upright spreading	Compact, horizontal.
Breaking habit	Vigorous with no wild growth tendencies	Vigorous with wild growth tendencies	Vigorous with wild growth tendencies.
Size of an average finished product from a #7 liner produced by Yoder Brothers, Inc.:			
Height	8"-11"	8"-12"	6"-9"
Diameter	10"-15"	12"-16"	10"-15"
Budding ease	Quite easy under wide range of conditions	Quite easy under wide range of conditions	Quite easy under wide range of conditions.
Uniformity of budding	Excellent		
Stems, color:			
New wood	Green, 5G Y5/6	Green, 5G Y6/6	Green, 5G Y6/8.
Mature wood	Brown, near 10Y R4/6	Brown, 7.5Y R3/6	Brown, 10Y R3/4.
Cooler tolerance	Good	Very good	Good.
Shipping tolerance	do	do	Poor.
Recommended flowering period:			
Year-round	All 12 months	All 12 months	All 12 months.
Natural season	Early December thru April	Mid-January thru April	Early January thru April.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of azalea characterized particularly as to novelty when compared to the cultivar Dorothy Gish by its more intense orange color, its single and semi-double flower form, its not hose-in-hose single, approximately one-half to one inch larger diameter flowers, larger and more glossy green foliage, and its tendency not to have wild water shoot growth; and char-

acterized particularly as to novelty when compared with the cultivar Fireglow by its deeper more vivid orange color, approximately one-half to one inch larger diameter flowers, and its larger, more glossy foliage.

No references cited.

ROBERT E. BAGWILL, Primary Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PLANT

Patent No. 3,370 Dated July 24, 1973

Inventor(s) WALTER W. KNICELY and WILLIAM E. DUFFETT

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Below Columns 1 and 2, in tabulation under "Bloom:", opposite "Range", first occurrence, under "Dorothy Gish", "1-3/4" to 2-1/5" " should be --1-3/4" to 2-1/2".

Below Columns 3 and 4, in tabulation under "Reproductive organs:", "Another" should be --Anther--.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of October 1974.

(SEAL)

Attest:

McCOY M. GIBSON JR.
Attesting Officer

C. MARSHALL DANN
Commissioner of Patents