United States Plant Patent
Lubbe

(54) PENSTEMON PLANT NAMED ‘BLUE RIDING HOOD’

(50) Latin Name: Penstemon schmidel
Varietal Denomination: Blue Riding Hood

(75) Inventor: Reny Lubbe, Noordwijkerhout (NL)

(73) Assignee: Malter B.V., Noordwijkerhout (NL)

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new Penstemon have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment 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 ‘Blue Riding Hood’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Blue Riding Hood’ as a new and distinct Penstemon plant:
1. Upright and compact plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Blue and violet blue-colored flowers arranged on strong flowering stems.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new Penstemon can be compared to plants of Penstemon ‘Red Knight’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, plants of the new Penstemon differed from plants of Penstemon ‘Red Knight’ in the following characteristics:
1. Plants of the new Penstemon were more compact and stockier than plants of ‘Red Knight’.
2. Plants of the new Penstemon had stronger flowering stems than plants of ‘Red Knight’.
3. Plants of the new Penstemon and ‘Red Knight’ differed in flower color as plants of ‘Red Knight’ had red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new Penstemon can be compared to plants of Penstemon schmidel ‘Red Riding Hood’, disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 18,950. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, plants of the new Penstemon differed primarily from plants of ‘Red Riding Hood’ in flower color as plants of ‘Red Riding Hood’ had bright red-colored flowers. In addition, plants of the new Penstemon had lighter green-colored stems, leaves and pedicels than plants of ‘Red Riding Hood’.

Plants of the new Penstemon can also be compared to plants of Penstemon schmidel ‘Delfts Blue Riding Hood’, disclosed in a U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 12/931,674 filed concurrently. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands, plants of the new Penstemon differed primarily from plants of ‘Delfts Blue Riding Hood’. 

ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of Penstemon plant named ‘Blue Riding Hood’, characterized by its upright and compact plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely flowering habit; blue and violet blue-colored flowers arranged on strong flowering stems; and good garden performance.
Hood' in flower color as plants of ‘Delfts Blue Riding Hood’ had lighter-colored flowers than plants of the new Penstemon.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new Penstemon 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 actual colors of the new Penstemon plant.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Blue Riding Hood’ grown in a container.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

Plants were used for the aforementioned photograph and following description were grown during the summer in an outdoor nursery in Noordwijkhout, The Netherlands and under typical production practices and conditions. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 20°C to 33°C and night temperatures ranged from 12°C to 20°C. Plants were five months old 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: Penstemon schmidel ‘Blue Riding Hood’.

Parentage:
- **Female parent.** Unnamed selection of Penstemon schmidel, not patented.
- **Male parent.** Unnamed selection of Penstemon schmidel, not patented.

Propagation:
- **Type cutting.** By vegetative cuttings.
- **Time to initiate roots.** About eight to ten days at 20°C to 22°C.
- **Root description.** Fine, fibrous; color, close to 161D.
- **Rooting habit.** Dense.

Plant description:
- **Plant form and growth habit.** Perennial; upright and compact plant form; narrow inverted triangle; vigorous growth habit and relatively rapid growth rate.
- **Plant height.** About 30 cm.
- **Plant width.** About 15 cm to 20 cm.

Foliage description:
- **Arrangement.** Opposite, simple; sessile.
- **Length.** About 6 cm to 7 cm.
- **Width.** About 1.5 cm to 2 cm.
- **Shape.** Lanceolate.
- **Apex.** Acuminate.
- **Base.** Truncate, oblique.
- **Margin.** Entire.
- **Texture, upper and lower surfaces.** Smooth, glabrous.
- **Venation pattern.** Pinnate.
- **Color.** Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 148B; venation, close to 145C. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 145C.

Flower description:
- **Flower shape, arrangement and flowering habit.** Single bi-labiate flowers arranged on terminal racemes; flowers face mostly outwardly; freely flowering with about 70 to 150 flowers developing per inflorescence.
- **Fragrance.** None detected.
- **Natural flowering season.** Long flowering period, plants flower during the summer in The Netherlands.
- **Flower longevity on the plant.** About two weeks; flowers not persistent.
- **Flower buds.** Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 145D.
- **Flowers.** Diameter: About 2.4 cm. Depth (height): About 3.1 cm.
- **Petal.** Arrangement: Five, fused into a tube; bi-labiate, upper lip with two upper petals and lower lip with three lower petals. Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 4 mm. Shape: Ovate to ovate lobate. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 105A; towards the base and apices, close to 94C; color becoming closer to 94C with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 105A; towards the base and apices, close to 94C; color becoming closer to 94C with development.
- **Seed/fruit.** Seed and fruit production have not been observed on plants of the new Penstemon.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Penstemon have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Penstemon.

Garden performance: Plants of the new Penstemon have exhibited good tolerance to rain and wind and have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about −10°C to about 35°C.

It is claimed:
1. A new and distinct Penstemon plant named ‘Blue Riding Hood’ as illustrated and described.

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