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**Krebs**

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(54) **RHODODENDRON PLANT NAMED**  
**‘HOLDENRHODO213’**

(50) Latin Name: *Rhododendron hybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **HoldenRhodo213**

(71) Applicant: **Holden Forests and Gardens**, Kirtland,  
OH (US)

(72) Inventor: **Stephen Krebs**, Painesville, OH (US)

(73) Assignee: **HOLDEN FORESTS AND**  
**GARDENS**, Kirtland, OH (US)

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

*Primary Examiner* — Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Penny J. Aguirre

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of hybrid *Rhododendron* plant named  
‘HoldenRhodo213’ that is characterized by its resistance to  
root rot caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, its cold hardi-  
ness at least in U.S.D.A Zone 5a, its flower buds that are pink  
in color that open to flowers that are creamy white in color  
with yellow centers, and its adaptability to open field con-  
ditions in Northeast Ohio with soil pH up to at least 6.2.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical classification: *Rhododendron hybrida*.  
Cultivar designation: ‘HoldenRhodo213’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Rhododendron* plant of hybrid origin, botanically known  
as *Rhododendron* ‘HoldenRhodo213’ and will be referred to  
hereafter by its cultivar name, ‘HoldenRhodo213’.  
‘HoldenRhodo213’ is a new cultivar of *Rhododendron* shrub  
grown for use as a landscape plant.

The new cultivar arose from a controlled breeding pro-  
gram by the Inventor in Madison, Ohio and Kirtland, Ohio  
with the objective of developing new cultivars of *Rhodo-*  
*dendron* with resistance to root rot, great sun adaptability,  
and compact growth habits.

The new cultivar was derived from a cross made by the  
Inventor in spring of 1997 between *Rhododendron* ‘Golden  
Gala’ (not patented) as the female parent, and *Rhododendron*  
‘Rio’ (not patented) as the male parent. The Inventor  
selected ‘HoldenRhodo213’ as a single unique plant  
amongst the seedlings that resulted from the above cross in  
winter of 1999.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-  
plished by semi-hardwood stem cuttings in Madison, Ohio  
in fall of 2007 under the direction of the Inventor. Asexual  
propagation by semi-hardwood stem cuttings and tissue  
culture utilizing meristematic tissue has determined that the  
characteristics of the new cultivar are stable and are repro-  
duced true to type in successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the characteristics ‘HoldenRhodo213’. These attri-

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butes in combination distinguish ‘HoldenRhodo213’ as a  
new and distinct cultivar of *Rhododendron*.

1. ‘HoldenRhodo213’ exhibits resistance to root rot  
caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
2. ‘HoldenRhodo213’ exhibits cold hardiness at least in  
U.S.D.A Zone 5a.
3. ‘HoldenRhodo213’ exhibits flower buds that are pink in  
color that open to flowers that are creamy white in color  
with yellow centers.
4. ‘HoldenRhodo213’ exhibits adaptability to open field  
conditions in Northeast Ohio with soil pH up to at least  
6.2.

The female parent of ‘HoldenRhodo213’ differs from  
‘HoldenRhodo213’ in having flowers that are uniformly pale  
yellow in color with a subtle nectar guide. The male parent  
of ‘HoldenRhodo213’ differs from ‘HoldenRhodo213’ in  
having mature flowers that are pink in color with yellow  
centers. ‘HoldenRhodo213’ can also be most closely com-  
pared to the *Rhododendron* cultivars ‘Percy Wiseman’ (not  
patented) and ‘Capistrano’ (not patented). ‘Percy Wiseman’  
is similar to ‘HoldenRhodo213’ in having a compact plant  
habit and a similar flower coloration. ‘Percy Wiseman’  
differs from ‘HoldenRhodo213’ in being less cold hardy (to  
U.S.D.A. Zone 6) and susceptible to root rot. ‘Capistrano’ is  
similar to ‘HoldenRhodo213’ in cold hardiness, growth rate  
and plant habit. ‘Capistrano’ differs from  
‘HoldenRhodo213’ in being susceptible to root rot and in  
having flowers that are yellow in color.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the over-  
all appearance and distinct characteristics of the new *Rho-*  
*dodendron*. The plant in the photographs is 6 years in age as  
grown outdoors in Kirtland, Ohio.

The photograph in FIG. 1 provides a view of 'HoldenRhodo213' in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of the inflorescences and flower buds of 'HoldenRhodo213'.

The colors in the photographs are as close as possible with the digital photography and printing techniques utilized and the color codes in the detailed botanical description accurately describe the new *Rhododendron*.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of a 9-year-old plant of the new cultivar as grown outdoors in an evaluation garden in Madison, Ohio. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all possible environmental conditions. The color determination is in accordance with The 1995 Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. General characteristics:

*Blooming period*.—2 to 3 weeks dependent on weather, typically commencing in mid-May in Ohio.

*Plant type*.—Evergreen shrub.

*Plant habit*.—Rounded and densely branched.

*Height and spread*.—Reaches 84 cm in height and 77 cm in width after 9 years in the landscape.

*Cold hardiness*.—Plant is hardy to at least U.S.D.A. Zone 5a, flower buds are resistant to cold damage when exposed to temperatures of -20 F, possibly colder.

*Diseases and pests*.—Observed to be resistant to root rot caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* under field conditions, typical of evergreen rhododendrons; lace bugs (*Stephanitis takeyai*) can establish on leaves under full sun conditions, no other susceptibility or resistance to other pests or diseases has been observed.

*Root description*.—Fibrous and 165A in color.

*Propagation*.—Tissue culture (preferred) or semi-hardwood stem cuttings.

*Growth rate*.—Moderate.

*Root development*.—4 to 8 weeks for root initiation from an unrooted cutting, 2 years to produce a young plant from a rooted cutting.

#### Stem description:

*Shape*.—Round.

*Stem color*.—Young growth is near 144B, gradually transitioning to 138A and then 151A, mature stems; a blend of 156A and 176A.

*Stem size*.—Main stems; 10.1 cm length and 2.2 cm in width, lateral branches; 77.9 cm in length and 1.4 cm in width, current season growth; an average 5.1 cm in length and 4 mm in width.

*Stem surface*.—Young growth is slightly rough to the touch, moderately covered in wooly pubescent hairs, mature surface is rugose and glabrous.

*Stem aspect*.—Held outward from main stem.

*Stem strength*.—Strong.

*Branching*.—Densely branched; degree dependent on pruning.

#### Foliage description:

*Leaf shape*.—Elliptic to obovate.

*Leaf division*.—Simple.

*Leaf base*.—Obtuse to mildly acute.

*Leaf apex*.—Acute to obtuse.

*Leaf venation*.—Pinnate, upper surface; 144B and 145A in color, lateral vein colors match leaf color, lower surface; midrib and lateral veins 144C and 138B in color.

*Leaf margins*.—Entire.

*Leaf attachment*.—Petiolate.

*Leaf arrangement*.—Alternate, leaf clusters whorled at shoot apex.

*Leaf internode length*.—Up to 5.5 cm, decreasing to 0 cm where leaves are whorled at the apex.

*Leaf orientation*.—Held nearly parallel to the ground to drooping between angles of 30° to 45° downward.

*Leaf aspect*.—Leaves mostly flat with occasional cupping or twisting near the tip.

*Leaf surface*.—Upper surface; smooth, glabrous, mildly shiny with a thick texture, lower surface; smooth, dull, glabrous.

*Leaf color*.—Young leaves upper surface; 146A, young leaves lower surface; 146D, mature leaves upper surface; a blend of 147C and 139A, mature leaves lower surface; 147D, older leaves; evergreen, same color as mature leaves in fall but occasionally yellow and drop in fall.

*Leaf size*.—Ranging from 3.3 to 12.5 cm in length and 2.2 to 4.7 cm in width.

*Leaf quantity*.—An average of 5 leaves per current season shoot.

*Petioles*.—Average of 1.3 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter, near 150B in color, smooth and lightly granular pubescent surface.

#### Flower description:

*Inflorescence type*.—Umbellate raceme.

*Lastingness of flowers*.—Last 2 to 3 weeks weather depending, flower petals self-cleaning.

*Flower size*.—An average of 4.3 cm in depth and 4.7 cm in diameter.

*Flower fragrance*.—None.

*Flower shape*.—Broad, tubular funnel.

*Flower number*.—Average of 11 per inflorescence.

*Flower aspect*.—Outward.

*Flower bud*.—Obovate in shape, rounded in cross-section, pointed apex, 3.3 cm in height and 1.3 cm in width, color winter; 151A, edges 174A, color when expanding; 54C.

*Flower attachment*.—Pedicellate.

*Petal number*.—5.

*Petal shape*.—Ovate to elliptic.

*Petal color*.—Lower and upper surface when expanding (balloon stage); 54C, lower (outer) surface when fully open; 4D, with 62C along the central axis and 69A, upper (inner) surface when fully open; 62D and 151B, and speckled nectar guides 151A.

*Petal surface*.—Waxy, glabrous, and smooth on both upper and lower surfaces.

*Petal margins*.—Entire, slightly undulate.

*Petal apex*.—Acute to acuminate and notched.

*Petal base*.—Fused.

*Petal size*.—An average of 4.2 cm in length and 2.5 cm in width.

*Sepal number*.—5.

*Sepal shape*.—Narrowly deltate.

*Sepal margin*.—Entire.

*Sepal size*.—1 mm in length and width.

*Sepal surface*.—Glabrous to lightly pubescent.

*Sepal apex*.—Abruptly rounded.

*Sepal base*.—Fused.

*Sepal color*.—Both surfaces 145B on both immature  
and mature sepals. 5

*Peduncle*.—An average of 3.2 cm in length and 6 mm  
in diameter, 144B and 145A in color, strong, surface  
hairy.

*Pedicels*.—An average of 2.7 cm in length and 2 mm in  
diameter, glabrous surface, 144B to 145A in color,  
strong. 10

Reproductive organs:

*Gynoecium*.—Pistil; 1, stigmas; round in shape, 183A  
in color, 1 to 1.5 mm in diameter; style; average of  
3.4 cm in length, curved at tip, 2D in color and 144C 15

near stigma and base, ovary; 144B in color, covered  
with pubescence 155C in color.

*Androecium*.—Stamens; 10, anthers; oblong to ellipti-  
cal in shape, 3 mm in length, 1.5 mm in width, 161C  
in color; filaments; 155A in color, pollen; 3D in color  
and moderate in quantity.

*Fruit/seeds*.—Dehiscent, 5 to 6 valved capsules, size is  
dependent on pollination, average of 5 mm in length  
and 3 mm in width, color not dehisced; 176A, 156C,  
and 146A.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Rhododendron* plant  
named 'HoldenRhodo213' as herein illustrated and  
described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2