



US00PP36891P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Pavlich

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP36,891 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 12, 2025**

(54) **HEUCHERA PLANT NAMED ‘Midnight’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Heuchera* hybrid**
Varietal Denomination: **Midnight**

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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.

(21) Appl. No.: **18/897,542**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 26, 2024**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/12 (2018.01)
A01H 6/80 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./440**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC Plt./440
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

“Terra Nova Nurseries to debut new introductions, catalog at
Cultivate ‘23,” *Lawn & Garden Retailer*, pp. 1-7, Jul. 6, 2023.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Heuchera* cultivar named ‘Midnight’
distinguished by its glossy black and purple leaf color,
medium-large leaves held on short petioles, red purple
flowers on upright flowering stems, excellent performance
in sun or shade, medium mounding habit with an excellent
crown count, and excellent vigor from spring to fall.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Heuchera hybrid.

Variety designation: ‘Midnight’.

BACKGROUND

The present application relates to a new and distinct
cultivar of *Heuchera* named ‘Midnight’. The cultivar is also
known by its trade name, FOREVER® ‘MIDNIGHT’. *Heu-*
chera is in the family Saxifragaceae. *Heuchera* ‘Midnight’
originated as a spontaneous mutation from *Heuchera*
‘Purple’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 26,358), identified in a batch of
tissue culture plants in Canby, Oregon USA.

SUMMARY

The new *Heuchera* cultivar ‘Midnight’ is distinguished
from other *Heuchera* varieties due to the following unique
combination of characteristics:

1. Glossy black and purple leaf color
2. Medium large leaves held on short petioles
3. Red purple flowers on upright flowering stems
4. Excellent performance in sun or shade
5. A medium, mounding habit with an excellent crown
count, and
6. Excellent vigor from spring until fall

Compared to its parent, the new cultivar has darker
purple-black leaves, and darker red purple inflorescence and
more crowns.

The new variety is distinct from other known *Heuchera*
varieties, for example, ‘Obsidian’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.
14,836) and ‘Berry Marmalade’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.
23,285). Compared to ‘Obsidian’, the new cultivar has
larger, more undulate leaves that are glossier black, shading

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to purple. In addition, ‘Midnight’ has a larger habit and a
diminished floral display as compared to ‘Obsidian’. Com-
pared to ‘Berry Marmalade’, the new cultivar has a larger,
fuller habit and dark, glossy leaves and larger red purple,
rather than white, inflorescence.

The new cultivar has been reproduced only by asexual
propagation (tip cuttings and tissue culture using growing
tips). Each of the progeny exhibits identical characteristics
to the original plant. Asexual propagation by cuttings and
tissue culture using standard micropropagation techniques
with terminal and lateral shoots, as done in Canby, Oregon,
shows that the characteristics described herein come true to
form, are firmly fixed, and are established and transmitted
through succeeding propagations.

The new cultivar has not been evaluated under all possible
environmental conditions and certain characteristics may
change with changing environmental conditions (such as
photoperiod, temperature, moisture, soil conditions, nutrient
availability, or other factors). The phenotype may change
with variations in environment without a change in the
genotype of the plant.

Color descriptions and other terminology are used in
accordance with their ordinary dictionary descriptions,
unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Color descrip-
tions used herein are made with reference to The *Royal*
Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 5th edition, 2007.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows an 8-month-old ‘Midnight’ plant in a
one-gallon container, grown outside in Canby, Oregon.

FIG. 2 shows a closeup of ‘Midnight’ foliage, grown in a
greenhouse setting in Canby, Oregon.

The color photographs show typical specimens of the new cultivar and depict the color as nearly true as is reasonably possible. It should be noted that colors may vary, for example due to lighting conditions at the time the photograph is taken. Therefore, color characteristics of this new cultivar should be determined with reference to the observations described herein, rather than from the photograph alone.

DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new *Heuchera* cultivar based on observations taken in September of an eight-month-old asexually reproduced progeny grown in a one-gallon pot outdoor in partial shade in Canby, Oregon. Canby is Zone 8 on the USDA Hardiness map. Temperatures range from a high of 95° F. in August to an average of 32° F. in January. Normal rainfall in Canby is 42.8 inches per year.

Plant:

Form.—Basal rosette, herbaceous perennial.

Hardiness.—USDA Zone 4 to 9.

Size.—35 cm tall from top of the foliage to the ground, 45 cm from ground to top of flowers, 40 cm wide.

Number of crowns.—About 10.

Habit.—Large, mounding.

Vigor.—Excellent vigor spring through fall.

Leaf:

Type.—Simple.

Arrangement.—Rosette.

Shape.—Orbicular to ovate.

Number.—About 89.

Blade size.—Grows to 11 cm long and 11.5 cm wide.

Venation.—Palmate.

Lobing/division.—Palmately lobed with 6 main lobes with secondary lobes.

Undulation.—Moderate.

Glossiness.—Medium.

Margins.—Broadly crenate.

Apex.—Mucronulate.

Base.—Cordate, overlapping at sinus.

Surface texture.—Sparsely glandular-puberulent on both sides.

Leaf rugosity.—Absent.

Petiole description.—Grows to 16.5 cm long and 3 mm wide, glandular hairs, 187B.

Leaf color.—New leaves: topside and veins are closest to greyed-purple N186A, and highlighted with purple N79B. Mature leaves: mature leaves lose the highlights of purple and appear almost black, closest to greyed-purple N187A. Leaves and veins blend colors to purple N187A as the foliage matures. Bottom side of juvenile and mature leaves are purple N79B.

Inflorescence:

Size.—Grows to 5 cm wide and 9.5 cm long.

Type.—Upright thyse.

Number of flowers per thyse.—About 27.

Flower density.—Medium to dense.

Number of thyse.—About 7.

Peduncle.—Grows to 30 cm long and 4 mm wide at base, glandular hairs, greyed purple N186C.

Flowering stem attitude.—Upright.

Pedice.—Grows to 3 mm long, with glandular hairs, N186D.

Attitude.—Upright.

Bloom period.—Late June through September in Canby, Oregon.

Flower bud:

Size.—4 mm wide and 3 mm long.

Description.—Glandular-puberulent, ovoid, facing outward.

Color.—Red purple 61B.

Flower:

Type.—Perfect.

Shape.—Campanulate.

Attitude.—Outward, slightly downward-facing.

Size.—5 mm long and 9 mm wide.

Corolla description.—Campanulate, 2 mm long and 1 mm wide; 5 lobes each 1 mm wide and 2 mm long, oblong in shape, back side glandular-puberulent, glabrous inside, tip obtuse, margin entire, outside color red purple 61C on both sides.

Calyx description.—Campanulate, 3 mm long and 2 mm wide, spatulate, margins entire, tip acute, glandular-puberulent on back side, glabrous inside, young flowers, red purple 70B on both sides, darkening to red purple 70A at apex. Mature flowers, red purple 73B, darkening to red purple 72B at apex.

Stamen description.—5 in number, filaments 1.5 mm long, red purple 65C, anthers 0.5 mm long, greyed-orange 169B, pollen poor, greyed-orange N67B.

Pistil description.—1, 2-beaked, 4 mm long and 2 mm wide, red purple 69A overall, ovary 2 mm long and 2 mm wide, style 2 mm long.

Lastingness.—Each thyse blooms for about 3 weeks on the plant.

Fruit:

Type.—Two-beaked ovoid capsule.

Fertility.—Moderate.

Color.—Greyed brown 199A.

Seed:

Shape.—Linear.

Size.—2 mm long.

Color.—Black 202A.

Pest and disease tolerance: The new cultivar is typical to the genus. No known resistance to pests or diseases. No problems have been found in Canby, Oregon.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Heuchera* plant named 'Midnight' substantially as illustrated and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

