



APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

PUSSY WILLOW

PUSSY WILLOW (*Salix chaenomeloides*)

Proposed denomination: 'Lubbers Zwart'
Trade name: Black Cat
Application number: 14-8406
Application date: 2014/07/25
Applicant: Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., Grand Haven, Michigan, United States of America
Agent in Canada: BioFlora Inc., St. Thomas, Ontario
Breeder: Howard Lubbers, Howard, Lubbers, Holland, Michigan, United States of America

Variety used for comparison: 'Winter Glory'

Summary: *The natural plant height of 'Lubbers Zwart' is shorter than the natural plant height of 'Winter Glory'. The branch of 'Lubbers Zwart' is shorter than the branch of 'Winter Glory'. The silky hairs on the catkin of 'Lubbers Zwart' are dense and medium length whereas the silky hairs of 'Winter Glory' are very dense and long.*

Description:

PLANT: shrub type, upright to spreading growth habit, medium density branching, vigorous growth rate

STEM: light green, medium thickness, medium to dense pubescence, rounded in cross-section

BUD: medium sized, orange-brown, ovoid shape, pointed apex, absent or very sparse pubescence

SCALE: large, ovoid shape, medium brown (RHS 166A)

PETIOLE: medium to strong intensity of anthocyanin colouration, very dense pubescence

LEAF: simple type, alternate arrangement along stem

YOUNG LEAF BLADE (UPPER SIDE): medium brown (RHS 176A-C) developing to brown green (RHS 146A-B) as leaf expands

LEAF BLADE: lanceolate and oblong shape, acuminate apex, rounded base, serrulate and crenate margin, no lobing, no variegation, weak to medium waviness of margin

LEAF BLADE (UPPER SIDE): absent or very sparse pubescence, dense pubescence along midrib, brown green (RHS 146B) at mid-season

LEAF BLADE (LOWER SIDE): no anthocyanin colouration on veins

FLOWER: inflorescence type

INFLORESCENCE: catkin type

CATKIN: grey (RHS 202C) when newly opened, white (RHS NN155C) and grey (RHS 202D) when fully opened, black (close to RHS 202A) carpels

SILKY HAIRS: dense, medium length

Origin and Breeding: 'Lubbers Zwart' was discovered and developed by the breeder, Howard L. Lubbers, in Holland, Michigan, USA. It was discovered in 2008 as a branch mutation of a wild selection of *Salix chaenomeloides* in a cut flower nursery in Allegan County, Michigan. 'Lubbers Zwart' was selected during that same year for its tall, strong stems and dark catkins. It was first asexually propagated by hardwood cuttings in April 2008 in Grand Haven, Michigan, USA.

Tests and Trials: The comparative trial of 'Lubbers Zwart' was conducted as an outdoor irrigated container trial during the summer of 2018 at BioFlora Inc. in St. Thomas, Ontario. The trial included a total of 12 shrubs each of the candidate and reference variety. All shrubs were grown from rooted cuttings and transplanted into containers on July 27, 2016. Plants were overwintered in an above-zero polyhouse. The trial was arranged outdoors in rows with approximately 100 cm spacing between plants. Observations and measurements were taken from 10 plants, or parts of 10 plants, of each variety on March 12, 2018 for flower characteristics and on July 2, 2018 for plant and leaf measurements. All colour determinations were made using the 2007 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart.

Comparison table for 'Lubbers Zwart'

	'Lubbers Zwart'	'Winter Glory'*
<i>Natural plant height (cm)</i>		
mean	46.5	84.6
std. deviation	4.59	11.11
<i>Branch length (cm)</i>		
mean	67.7	95.0
std. deviation	7.80	7.07

*reference variety



Pussy Willow: 'Lubbers Zwart' (left) with reference variety 'Winter Glory' (right)



Pussy Willow: 'Lubbers Zwart' (left) with reference variety 'Winter Glory' (right)



Pussy Willow: 'Lubbers Zwart' (left) with reference variety 'Winter Glory' (right)