

Sui Generis Rights

Plant Patent
Plant Variety Protection
Mask Work Protection
Vessel Hull Protection

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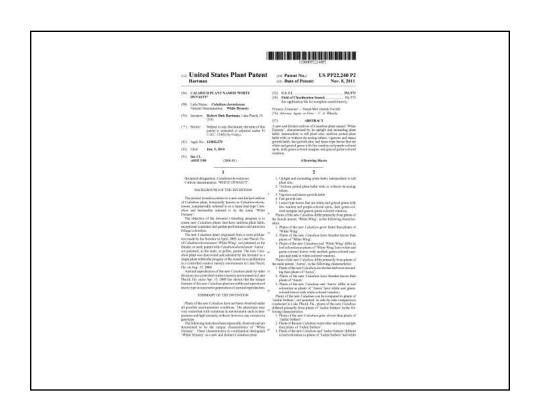


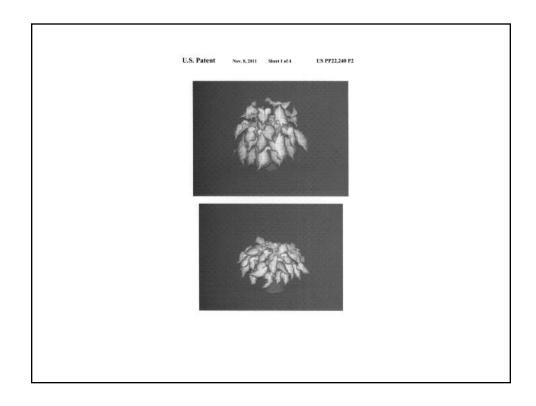
Plant Patent



Plant patents - basics

- Like utility and design patents, issued by USPTO after an application process
- Covers asexually reproduced plants
- Source of law: Plant Patent Act (1930), 35
 U.S.C. § § 161-164
- Duration: 20 year term of protection from filing of application





Plant patent - requirements

- Asexually reproduced (budding, grafting)
- Plant (including macro fungi, but not bacteria)
- Distinct
- Must be clearly distinguishable from other varieties (color, taste, disease resistance)
- New
- Can be invented or discovered if discovered in a cultivated area
- Description requirement is relaxed compared to utility patents

Plant patent - infringement

- In practicality, an infringing plant must be a vegetative descendant of the patented plant
- Not infringement to sell fruit, flowers, seeds, etc.
- Sports (somatic mutants) are noninfringing of the parent patent and are potentially separately patentable



Plant Variety Protection

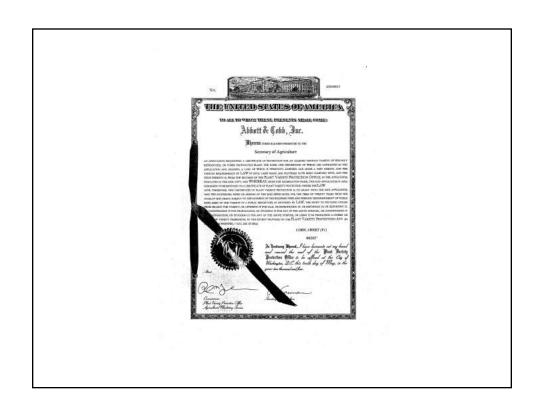


Plant variety protection - basics

- Protects stable sexually reproducing varieties
- Administered through USDA, not PTO
- Source of law: Plant Variety Protection Act (1970), 7 U.S.C. § § 2321-2582
- Duration: 20 years generally, 25 years for trees and vines

Plant variety protection - requirements

- Sexually reproducing
- Plant (not bacteria, fungi)
- New
- Distinct
- Uniform
- Stable



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Plant variety protection - infringement

- Sexual reproduction and selling of seeds is infringement
- Protects against creation of derivative plant lines also
- An exemption allows farmers to save and plant seeds (otherwise, seed sales are infringing)
- A research exemption allows use for breeding to develop a new variety

some practice ...

Kate discovered a new variety of plant in the rain forest. It is an asexually reproducing variety that creates a valuable pharmaceutical compound. What can be obtained to protect it?

- (A) a plant patent, but not a PVPA certificate
- (B) a PVPA certificate, but not a plant patent
- (C) both a plant patent and a PVPA certificate
- (D) neither a plant patent nor a PVPA certificate

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Mask work protection

- Protects original mask works for making semi-conductor chips
 - A mask work is a two- or three-dimensional layout of an integrated circuit on a semiconductor chip.
- Source of law: Semiconductor Chip Protection Act (1984), 17 U.S.C. § § 901-914
- Duration: 10 years

Mask work protection

- Administered through Library of Congress Copyright Office
- Must be registered with the Copyright Office for protection to commence.

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Tiles

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Vessel Hull Protection



Vessel hull protection - basics

- Protects vessel hulls, plus superstructure, per later amendment
- Source of law: Vessel Hull Design Protection Act (1998), 17 U.S.C. § § 1301-1332-914
- Duration: 10 years

Vessel hull protection - requirements

- Must be embodied in an actual vessel hull.
 (There is no protection for designs existing only in models, drawings, or representations.)
- Staple or commonplace designs cannot be protected.
- Must be registered with the Copyright Office for protection to commence.
- Made-public bar: An application for registration must be filed no later than two years after the hull was publicly exhibited, or distributed or offered to the public for sale with the design owner's consent.

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