Plant Patents

Today on Gardening in a Minute: plant patents.

New plants are always coming onto the market, and these days, many of them are protected by patents.

But what’s a patent and why should you care?

In a nutshell, a patent dictates that no one can asexually propagate a patented plant without the approval of the patent owner, for a period of twenty years.

Patents help ensure that plant breeders are fairly compensated for their discoveries. Nurseries that grow patented plants must pay royalties to the patent holder for each individual plant.

These same rules also apply to home gardeners, so keep this in mind if you like to grow new plants from cuttings.

Remember, plant patents are there to protect growers so that they can keep coming up with new and exciting plants for your garden!

For more information about plant patents and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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