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**Ranney et al.**

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(54) **HYBRID CALYCANTHUS PLANT NAMED  
'VENUS'**

(50) Latin Name: *Calycanthus (chinensis×floridus)×  
Calycanthus (chinensis×occidentalis)*  
Varietal Denomination: **Venus**

(75) Inventors: **Thomas Ranney**, Arden, NC (US);  
**Thomas Eaker**, Hendersonville, NC  
(US)

(73) Assignee: **North Carolina State University**,  
Raleigh, NC (US)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./226**

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*Primary Examiner*—Kent Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Myers Bigel Sibley &  
Sajovec, P.A.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

*Calycanthus* cultivar 'Venus' is a medium-sized, multi-  
stemmed shrub producing large, yellow-green flower buds  
that open to unique large, white magnolia-like flowers with  
yellow and purple infusions in the center. The flowers open  
widely, such that all of the tepals are visible, and are fragrant  
with the fruity aroma of strawberries and melons.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of  
the novel hybrid cultivar disclosed herein is *Calycanthus*  
(*chinensis×floridus*)×*Calycanthus (chinensis×occidentalis)*  
'Venus'.

Variety denomination: The *Calycanthus* hybrid disclosed  
herein has been given the variety denomination 'Venus'.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

*Calycanthus* are deciduous shrubs that are commonly  
grown as ornamental landscape plants. There are three  
species of *Calycanthus*. *Calycanthus floridus* (common  
sweetshrub, Carolina allspice, Carolina sweetshrub,  
strawberry-shrub, bubbly blossom, sweet bubbly, sweet  
Bettie, spicebush) is found throughout much of the Eastern  
United States and commonly grows as an understory shrub  
in mixed deciduous forests, often along streams and in moist  
woodlands. Plant height can vary and ranges from 1 to 2.5  
meters, growing as multi-stemmed shrubs with suckering  
shoots arising from the base and roots. Fall color can be an  
attractive buttery yellow. The flowers range in size (2–3 cm  
across) with tepals that vary from reddish purple to a dark  
chocolate brown. The fragrance is variable, but can have a  
pleasant fruity aroma. Older synonyms for this species  
include *Calycanthus glaucus*, *C. fertilis*, *C. floridus* var.  
*laevigatus*, *C. floridus* var. *oblongifolius*, *C. nanus*, *C.*  
*brockianus*, and *C. mohrii*.

*Calycanthus occidentalis* (California sweetshrub) is natu-  
rally found in Washington and California growing as an  
understorey species along streams and on moist canyon  
slopes. Although similar to the Carolina sweetshrub, the

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California species is larger in almost all respects with the  
plants growing to over 3.5 meters tall. The flowers, although  
slightly larger (2 to 4 cm across) and a brighter red, are  
typically not as fragrant as those produced by *C. floridus*.

The Chinese wax shrub *Calycanthus chinensis*  
(*Sinocalycanthus chinensis*) is a rare species native to the  
Zhejiang Province in southeast China. This medium-sized  
shrub grows to 1 to 2.7 meters tall with large, glossy leaves.  
The flowers open more completely (up to 8 cm in diameter)  
than do North American species and are multicolored with  
the outer perianth whorl being whitish pink and the inner  
whorl being a strong yellow with occasional purple streaks  
at the base, with no fragrance.

*Calycanthus* is becoming increasingly popular as a land-  
scape plant for use as a shrub border, foundation plant or a  
naturalizing plant. *Calycanthus* has few disease or insect  
pest problems. Several horticultural varieties of *Calycanthus*  
*floridus* are known including 'Athens' (unpatented), 'Edith  
Wilder' (unpatented), and 'Michael Linsey' (unpatented). As  
far as the inventors are aware, no varieties of *Calycanthus*  
are patented.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct hybrid  
variety of *Calycanthus* which is known botanically as *Caly-  
canthus* L. 'Venus' (×*Sinocalycanthus* 'Venus'  
Lasseigne and Fantz) and has been given the cultivar name  
'Venus'. *Calycanthus* 'Venus' is suitable for use as a  
medium-sized ornamental landscape shrub.

There is some disagreement about the classification of the  
Chinese wax shrub. Some consider that the proper classifi-