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Plant Pat. 3,428

AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT

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AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT

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1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A new variety of African violet plant characterized by the delicate pink color of its very large blossoms which bloom profusely and recurrently the year around, and by its vigorous growth with abundant outwardly spreading foliage and relatively high display of closely massed flowers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

My new variety of pink African violet plant was originated as a seedling in my greenhouses at Isernhagen, Germany, by crossing an unnamed double pink as the seed parent and an unnamed single pink as the pollen parent with the object of developing a more hardy and vigorously growing plant having a year around and profuse production of flowers, and a sturdier and more upright flower stalk displaying the flowers well above the foliage. This new variety of African violet plant satisfactorily fulfills these objectives and asexual propagation of this variety by me at Isernhagen, Germany, by means of leaf cuttings has shown the aforesaid characteristics to hold true from generation to generation and to be firmly fixed.

Commercial propagation of this new variety of African violet plant is now being done at West Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., by means of leaf cuttings and division of shoots with no noticeable deviation from the distinctive features of the original plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

My new variety of African violet plant is illustrated by the accompanying drawing which shows the form and color characteristics of the plant, the color rendition being as nearly true as is reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photographic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following is a detailed description of my new variety of African violet plant with color identification according to the Horticultural Colour Chart published by the British Colour Council in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society of London, England.

The plant

Origin: Seedling

Parentage:

Seed parent.—A double pink (unnamed and unpatented)

Pollen parent.—A single pink (unnamed and unpatented)

Classification:

Bontanic.—*Saintpaulia ionantha*

Commercial.—African violet

Form: Compact potted plant (rosette arrangement)

Height: 3½ to 4 inches from base to top of flowers

Growth: Sturdy, vigorous and with very open foliage which tends to spread horizontally

Foliage: Quantity—abundant, but less compact than other varieties

Size of leaf.—Up to 3 inches long and 2¾ inches wide

Shape of leaf.—Oblong-ovate with crenate margins, some leaves having margins almost smooth

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Texture.—Smooth on upper side, coarse on under side and very tomentose on both sides

Veins.—Pinnate. Very pronounced on under side and connecting at leaf margin.

5 Foliage:

Color.—Upper side—Ivy Green 0001060/3. Under side—Dahlia Purple 931/1 with Veronese Green 660 showing through

Petioles.—1¼ to 2 inches long in older leaves

The bud

Form: Urn-shaped, developing a mild point

Size: ¼ inch wide and ¼ inch long

Opening: Opens slowly, about five weeks from visible bud to opened flower

Color: When petals begin to unfurl—Orient Pink 416

Sepals: 5—Hooded over bud for a very short time

Form.—Branched, upstanding and spear-shaped

Color.—Inside—Sage Green 000861. Outside—Parsley Green 00962/1 with red tint

Calyx:

Shape.—Star-shaped when calyx splits

Aspect.—Tomentose

Peduncle:

Aspect.—Very tomentose

Length.—To 1¾ inches

Strength.—Very flexible

Color.—Purple Madder 1028 to Lavender Green 000761

The flower

Blooming character: Early, recurrent and profuse the year around

Size of flower: Very large. 7/8 to 1½ inches in diameter and up to ½ inch in depth

Borne: In cluster on primary peduncle or flower stalk

Shape: Very open cup changing to more flat with two small petals standing higher than other three

Petalage: 5 petals with 3 noticeably larger than others

40 *Arrangement*.—Sympetalous

Form.—Rotate and bilaterally symmetrical

Color.—Upper side—Persian Rose 628/3. Under side—Rhodamine Pink 527/3

Texture.—Soft

45 *Appearance*.—Smooth and velvety. Tomentose on under side.

Petaloids.—Occasionally one stamen has become petaloid. Size—3/16 to 7/16 inch long. Color—Rhodamine Pink 527/3 or 527/2

50 Peduncle: 13/16 to 1¾ inches to branching. 9/16 to ¾ inch to flower.

Strength.—Very flexible

Color.—Varies from Purple Madder 1028 to Lavender Green 000761

55 Discoloration after full bloom: Color fades greatly

Effect of climate: Hot climate suppresses flowering. The plant thrives in 80 to 90% relative humidity.

Fragrance: Very slight

Lasting quality: 10 to 14 days after opening of flower

60 Persistence: Blossoms hang on and dry

Reproductive organs

Stamens:

Anthers.—*Arrangement*—basifixed, 2 in number, each 1/16 inch long and having 2 anther cells

Filaments.—Length—1/8 inch. Color—Citron Green 763/1 surrounded by Rhodamine Pink 527/2

Staminodes.—Frequent and minute sterile stamens, occasionally some become petaloids

Pollen.—Color—White

Pistils: One, 3/8 inch long

Stigmas: Color—Erythrite Red 0027/1

Style:

Length.— $\frac{3}{16}$ inch*Color.*—Rhodamine Pink 527/2

Ovaries: Superior and tomentose. Color—Pea Green 61

The principal distinctions of this new variety of African violet plant reside in the very large size of its light pink blossoms and the overall size of the plant whereby the mass of blossoms is displayed high above an open spread of relatively large, dark green, radially extending leaves. The plant blooms profusely the year around and begins its blooming somewhat earlier than other varieties of similar color which also enhances its commercial acceptance.

I claim:

1. A new variety of African violet plant, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized by the very large size of its light pink blossoms, the relatively large size of the plant, the height at which the blossoms are displayed and the early and profuse production of its flowers.

No references cited.

ROBERT E. BAGWILL, Primary Examiner