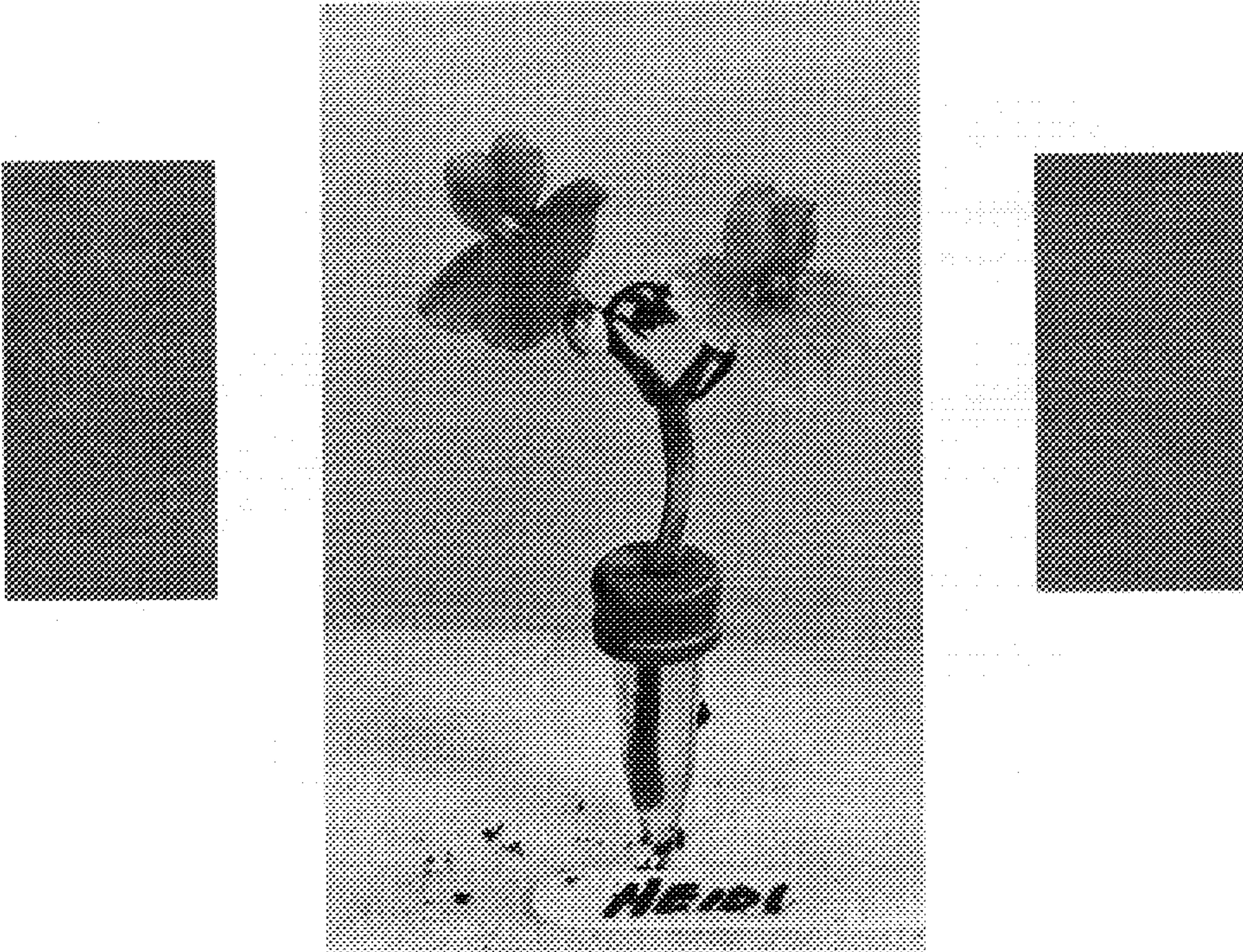


Jan. 8, 1974

A. W. FISCHER
AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT
Filed Jan. 24, 1972

Plant Pat. 3,429



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3,429

AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT

Arnold W. Fischer, Isernhagen, Germany, assignor to
Geo. J. Ball, West Chicago, Ill.

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Int. Cl. A01h 5/00

U.S. Cl. Plt.—69

1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A new variety of African violet plant distinguished by its profuse, year around production of long lasting blossoms which appear on erect stalks displaying the flowers well above the plant foliage. The new plant flowers uniformly with large blossoms of a pleasing pink color.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

My new variety of African violet plant originated as a seedling developed by me at Isernhagen, Germany, in the course of my breeding and cultural efforts to produce improved varieties of African violet plants for the commercial potted plant market. This plant was observed to have a vigorous growth habit which produced a profuse display of relatively large flowers massed well above the foliage and having an attractive rich pink color. For these reasons, this plant was selected for testing and asexual propagation, under my direction, in greenhouse at Isernhagen, Germany, has demonstrated the new variety to have these and other advantages which hold true from generation to generation. Asexual propagation of this new plant by leaf cuttings has been done successfully by my licensee at West Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., and commercial production of the plant, by leaf cuttings and division of shoots, is now being done by my said licensee at West Chicago, Ill., with no noticeable deviation from the distinctive characteristics of the original plant produced by me.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

My new variety of African violet plant is illustrated by the accompanying drawing which shows the color and form characteristics of the blossoms and plant, the color rendition being as nearly true as is reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photographic procedures. The uppermost view shows the manner in which the flowers are carried by the relatively strong stalk; and the lower view shows the dense and spreading form of the plant with its display of closely gathered blossoms. Color patches A and B show the true colors of the top side and reverse side, respectively, of the flower petals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

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

The plant

Origin: Seedling

Parentage:

Seed parent.—An unnamed double pink (unpatented)

Pollent parent.—An unnamed single pink (unpatented)

Classification:

Botanic.—*Saintpaulia ionantha*

Commercial.—African violet

Form: Compact and spreading potted plant

Height: 3 inches from base to top of flowers

Growth: Vigorous and condensed with sturdy upright flower stalks

Foliage:

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Quantity.—Abundant

Size of leaf.—Varies greatly with age of leaf

Shape of leaf.—Oblong-ovate, some almost heart-shaped, with crenate margins

Texture.—Tomentose

Veins.—Pinnate

Color.—Upper side—Ivy Green 0001060/2. Under side—Maroon 1030/3

Petioles.—1½ to 2 inches long

The bud

Form: Bell-shaped

Size: Fairly small—⅜ to ¼ inch in diameter and ¼ inch deep

Opening rate: Very slow—5 weeks from visible bud to opening of flower

Color: When petals begin to unfurl—Rhodamine Pink 527/2

Sepals: Hooded over bud for a very short time

Form.—Upstanding, branched and spear-shaped

Color.—Inside—Parsley Green 00962/1. Outside—Maroon 1030

Calyx:

Shape.—Funnel-shaped and splits to star shape

Aspect.—Smooth on inside, hairy on outside

Peduncle: Sturdy, erect and very tomentose

Length.—½ to ¾ inch from stalk to flower

Color.—Maroon 1030

The flower

Blooming character: Recurrent and profuse the year around, with production of 30 to 40 flowers on a well grown plant 25 to 30 weeks old

Size of flower: Size varies on the plant with most blooms fairly large

Diameter.—1⅛ to 1½ inches

Depth.—To ¼ inch—mostly flat

Borne: In cluster on each peduncle

Shape: Cup-shaped, almost flat, when first opening and becomes flat when fully opened

Petalage: Number—5, three noticeably larger than remaining two

Arrangement.—Sympetalous

Form.—Rotate and bilaterally symmetrical with smooth margins

Color.—Top side—Cyclamen Purple 30/2 becoming more intense near center of flower. Reverse side—Rhodamine Purple 29/2

Texture: Soft and smooth

Appearance: Velvety and glistens, tomentose or under side

Peduncle: Generally upright, ½ to ¾ inch long for each flower and extending from stalk branch 1¾ to 2 inches long

Strength.—Sturdy—but flexible

Color.—Maroon 1030

Discoloration after full bloom: Color tends to fade

Effect of weather: Hot weather fades the flower and suppresses flowering. Plant thrives in 80 to 90% humidity.

Fragrance: None

Lasting quality: Open flower—10 to 14 days

Persistence: Flower hangs on and dries on the stalk

Reproductive organs

Stamens:

Anthers.—Basified, 2 in number, each ⅛ inch long and composed of two anther cells

Filaments.—⅜ inch long, Sap Green 62/2 in color

Pollen.—Color—White

Pistils: One—⅜ inch long

Stigmas: Color: Rhodamine Purple 29/2

Style: Length: ⅜ inch. Color: Rhodamine Purple 29/2

Ovaries: Superior and tomentose

The principal features of my new variety of African violet plant are its profuse and uniform flowering habit, its vigorous growth, and its display of closely grouped flowers extending well above the foliage mass. The flowers are of an attractive pink color and the petal veins provide a mild striping effect which pleasantly characterizes the blooms. This new variety is further distinguished by its earlier flowering habit, which enhances its commercial value, and the relatively longer lasting quality of the blooms.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of African violet plant, substantially as herein shown and described, characterized by its profuse and uniform year around production of relatively large flowers which appear well above a flat growth of leaves, its early flowering habit, and the long lasting quality of the blooms.

No references cited.

10 ROBERT E. BAGWILL, Primary Examiner