

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED
MONIQUE
[75] Inventor: Reinhold Holtkamp, Isselburg, Fed.
Rep. of Germany
[73] Assignee: Gessellschaftsvertrag uber die
Erfindergemeinschaft "Optimara",
Rees Haffen, Fed. Rep. of Germany
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Primary Examiner—Robert E. Bagwill
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Schwartz, Jeffery, Schwaab,
Mack, Blumenthal & Koch

[57] ABSTRACT
An African violet plant named Monique having very
early and profuse flowering, upright flower stems each
carrying 7-10 or more lilac colored flowers, flexible
peduncle, and green, attractive leaves.

1 Drawing Figure

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct
cultivar of African violet plant, botanically known as
Saintpaulia ionantha, and hereinafter referred to by the
cultivar name Monique.

The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding
and selection process by the designation C 153/1, and is
a product of a planned breeding program.

The new cultivar was originated from a cross made in
a controlled breeding program in Isselburg, West Ger-
many. The female, or seed parent was a cultivar desig-
nated XIX 4107 Lilac single. The male, or pollen parent
was a cultivar designated A 6/1 pink single.

The new cultivar Monique was discovered and se-
lected by me as a flowering plant within the progeny of
the stated cross in a controlled environment in Issel-
burg, West Germany. Asexual reproduction of the new
cultivar by leaf cuttings and by division of shoots, as
performed by me at Isselburg, West Germany, has dem-
onstrated that the combination of characteristics as
herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed
and are retained through successive generations of asex-
ual reproduction.

Monique has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
significantly with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity and day length. The follow-
ing observations, measurements and values describe the
new cultivar as grown in Isselburg, West Germany,
under greenhouse conditions which closely approxi-
mate those generally used in commercial practice.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed
and are determined to be basic characteristics of
Monique, which in combination distinguish this African
violet as a new and distinct cultivar:

- (1) Very early flowering, 5-6 weeks after potting.
- (2) Profuse flowering.
- (3) Upright flower stems.
- (4) Attractive lilac flower color.
- (5) Flexible leaves and peduncle
- (6) 8-10 flower stems.
- (7) Fresh green, attractive leaves.

The accompanying photographic drawing shows a
typical specimen plant of the new cultivar. The colors
appearing in the photograph are as true as possible with
color illustrations of this type.

In the following description, color references are
made to The Horticultural Colour Chart (H.C.C.) is-
sued by Wilson Colour Ltd., except where general

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colors of ordinary significance are referred to. Color
values were taken under natural light conditions ap-
proximately mid-day in Nashville, Tenn.

5 Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat.,
cv Monique.

Parentage:

Male parent.—A 6/1 pink single.

Female parent.—XIX 4107 lilac single.

10 Propagation: The new cultivar holds its distinguishing
characteristics through successive propagations by
leaf cuttings and by division of shoots.

Plant: From 8 cm. to 10 cm. tall when grown in pots,
and approximately 20-25 cm. in diameter when fully
grown.

Leaves:

General form.—Oval/round.

Diameter.—65-70 mm.

Texture.—Velvety, shiny.

Aspect.—Slightly hairy.

Veins.—Well pronounced, light green, shiny.

Color (upper side).—Parsley green 00962.

Color (underside).—Purplish red, hairy.

Petiole.—Brownish, hairy.

Flowers:

Buds.—Bell shape, purplish before opening.

Sepals.—5 in number, brown spear shape, hairy.

Calyx: Funnel shape, flat. Peduncle: Short,
strong, brownish-red, hairy.

Individual flowers.—Size: 40 mm. Color: Upper
side: Bishops violet 34/1. Underside: Bishops
violet 34/2. Borne: One strong upright flower
stem, 7-10 or more flowers. Shape: Conven-
tional violet shape, occasionally additional small
petals in the center of the flower. Corolla: Com-
pact flower bouquet with long lasting non-drop-
ping flowers. Flowering time: First flowers ap-
pear 5-6 weeks after potting; after 8 weeks full
flowering saleable plant.

Reproductive organs:

Anthers.—Two anthers composed of four cells;
sulphur yellow seed capsule pushed slightly
through.

Filaments.—Violet 36.

Styles.—4-6 mm.; base of ovary light green, hairy.

Roots: Normally developed, white and hairy when
active; brownish when older.

Plant 5,417

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Disease resistance: Good as experienced to date.

General observations: Monique is a medium size, vigorous growing cultivar. There are 7-10 or more wire-like flower stems, each of which carries 6-9 or more flowers which are violet shaped. The flowers are long-lasting, non-dropping and profuse, and the cultivar flowers continuously after first blooming.

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I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of African violet plant named Monique, as described and illustrated, having early and profuse flowering, upright flower stems each carrying 7-10 or more lilac colored flowers, flexible peduncle and green, attractive leaves.

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U.S. Patent

Mar. 12, 1985

Plant 5,417

