

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED BETTY
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[57] ABSTRACT
A new and distinct cultivar of African violet plant
named Betty characterized by its compact growth
habit, dark green serrated leaves, strong, upright flower
stems, each of which carries 5–7 and more flowers, the
flowers being frilled and waved and mainly white in
color with dark purple centers, uniform growth habit,
long lasting and non-dropping flowers, and its ability to
produce a saleable plant with a fully developed flower
head 8–10 weeks after potting.

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 named Betty.
The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding
and selection process by the designation G 12/XV, 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 4158 Red. The male, or pollen parent was a
cultivar designated 67 Red Girl.
The new cultivar Betty was discovered and selected
by me as a flowering plant within the progeny of the
stated cross in a controlled environment in Isselburg,
West Germany. Asexual reproduction of the new culti-
var by leaf cuttings and by division of shoots, as per-
formed by me at Isselburg, West Germany, has demon-
strated that the combination of characteristics as herein
disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and are
retained through successive generations of asexual re-
production.
Betty has not been observed under all possible envi-
ronmental conditions. The phenotype may vary signifi-
cantly with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture, light intensity and day length. The following ob-
servations, measurements and values describe the new
cultivar as grown in Isselburg, West Germany, and
Nashville, Tenn. under greenhouse conditions which
closely approximate those generally used in commercial
practice.
The following traits have been repeatedly observed
and are determined to be basic characteristics of Betty,
which in combination distinguish this African violet as
a new and distinct cultivar:
1. Compact growth habit.
2. Dark green serrated leaves.
3. Seven to nine strong, upright and wire-like flower
stems each carrying 5–7 or more flowers.
4. The flowers are frilled and wavy, with the flower
color being mainly white but dark purple in the center;
the purple tinging occasionally extends from the center
toward the edge of the petals.
5. Uniform growth habit, with the leaf petioles not
stretching.

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6. Highly floriferous, compact flower head, with the
flowers being long lasting and non-dropping.
7. Fast producer, with a saleable pot having a com-
pact flower head being fully developed 8–10 weeks
after potting.
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 Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart
(R.H.S.), except where general colors of ordinary sig-
nificance are referred to. Color values were taken under
natural light conditions at 3 P.M. in late November in
Nashville, Tenn.
Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat.
cv. BETTY.
Parentage:
Male parent.—67 Red Girl.
Female parent.—XIX 4158 Red.
Propagation: The new cultivar holds its distinguishing
characteristics through successive propagations by
leaf cuttings and by division of shoots.
Plant: From 5 cm. to 8 cm. tall when grown in pots, and
approximately 20–22 cm. in diameter when fully
grown.
Leaves.—General Form: Oval. Diameter: 50–60
mm. Texture: Leather-like. Aspect: Heavily ser-
rated indentations; shiny. Veins: Pronounced
light green; shiny. Color (upperside): Yellow
green 147 between A-B. Color (underside): Yel-
low green 148D. Petiole: Brownish Purple.
Flowers.—Buds: Ball-shape. Sepals: Color: Light
green. Calyx: Flat funnel. Aspect: Spear shape;
hairy. Peduncle: Short and upright.
Individual flowers.—Size: 40–45 mm. Color: Upper-
side: White, with center purple violet 82A. Un-
derside: White, slightly purple. Borne: On up-
right, short wire-like peduncles. Shape: Violet
shape, frilled, wavy. Flowering time: In 8–10
weeks after potting, a saleable plant is produced
with a fully developed flower head just above
the leaves.

Plant 5,604

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Reproductive organs.—Anthers: 2 composed out of 4 cells. Filaments: Bright green ovary. Styles: Light purple; white stigma.

Roots: White when young and active; brownish when older.

Disease resistance: Good as experienced to date.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet plant named Betty, as described and illustrated, and particu-

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larly characterized by its compact growth habit, dark green serrated leaves, strong, upright flower stems, each of which carries 5-7 and more flowers, the flowers being frilled and waved and mainly white in color with dark purple centers, uniform growth habit, long lasting and non-dropping flowers, and its ability to produce a saleable plant with a fully developed flower head 8-10 weeks after potting.

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U.S. Patent

Dec. 17, 1985

Plant 5,604

