

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET NAMED ALENA

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new variety of African violet plant for potted plant culture particularly distinguished by its year around blooming capability, its profuse production of red-purple flowers, prolonged blooming period, resistance to disease, retention of flowers past maturity on their respective stems, and uniformity throughout the life cycle.

1 Drawing Figure

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

This new variety of African violet plants was discovered by me in 1983 after crossing Seed Parent Optimara Colorado and Pollen Parent Melodie Angie, at Hayward, Calif. With subsequent propagation of the new plant by means of leaf cuttings at Hayward, Calif., this plant has demonstrated that its distinctive characteristics hold true from generation to generation and appear to be firmly fixed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

Sheet one is full color photographic view of the plant in bloom. The colors shown being as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photographic procedures.

The following is a detailed description of my new African violet plant with the color designation being according to The R.H.S. Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, with collaboration by The British Colour Council.

THE PLANT

Origin: Seedling, #H-6/14.

Seed parent: Optimara Colorado.

Pollen parent: Melodie Angie.

Classification:

*Botanic.*—*Saintpaulia Ionanthe*.

*Commercial.*—African violet.

Form: Rosette arrangement.

Height: 10.2 to 11.6 cm. tall.

Growth: New growth is vigorous and has a tendency to grow slightly upwards. As leaves get older they grow more horizontally and eventually grow somewhat downward.

Size: Medium, overall plant diameter is from 21 to 22.5 cm.

Mutation prone: Very little for foliage or flowers.

Foliage: Brittle.

*Shape.*—Oval with very slight crenate margins.

*Length.*—Approximately 6 cm. for a mature leaf.

*Width.*—Approximately 5.7 cm. for a mature leaf.

*Color.*—Upperside: Dark Green. Underside: Light Green, red pigment in tissue between veins.

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*Texture.*—Upperside: Pubescent. Underside: Puberulent.

*Ribs and veins.*—Veins are pinnate, slightly sunken on leaf surface, pronounced on underside of leaf.

*Petiole.*—Oval, red pigmented, pubescent on upper and puberulent on lower sides. Length varies with age of leaf and plant.

Flower:

*Blooming habit.*—Continuous and abundant under optimum growing conditions.

*Number.*—Eight to twelve per peduncle.

*Size.*—Each flower is approximately 3.7 cm. in diameter.

*Color.*—Red-Purple Group, 74-C. Two upper petals are Red-Purple Group, 74-A, from The R.H.S. Colour Chart.

*Type.*—Single.

*Petals.*—Five per individual flower with ruffled margins.

*Texture.*—Smooth and flexible, easily damaged.

*Appearance.*—Sparkly upper surface. Underside is shiny with small bumps and is finely puberulent.

*Peduncles.*—Short, strong, red pigmented, pubescent.

*Inflorescence.*—Cyme, upright, above foliage.

*Calyx.*—Quinquupartite, red pigmented, puberulent.

*Persistence.*—Flowers do not drop. Old flowers dry up on the stalk.

*Fragrance.*—None.

Reproductive organs:

*Stamens.*—Usually two per flower and joined at top of anthers.

*Anthers.*—Visible, bright yellow, fade slightly as they get older; one on each filament.

*Filaments.*—Approximately 0.3 cm. long.

*Pollen.*—Light yellow, ripens before stigma.

*Pistils.*—Normally seven per flower.

*Stigma.*—Usually visible and accessible. When receptive, it becomes swollen and usually exudes a small drop of clear fluid.

*Style.*—Approximately 0.7 cm. long.

*Ovary.*—Superior.

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This variety of African violet plant is very suited for potted plant culture and its year around blooming capability gives the plant a commercially attractive value. Flowers do not drop in cool temperature. This new African violet is a good producer that is fairly disease resistant. One of the most important characteristic of this variety of African violet is that of uniformity. Uniformity and reliability are found at every point in the growing of this variety. In plants initiated at one time

from leaf cuttings virtually all plantlets uniformly come up at the same time and bloom at the same time following the planting.

5 I claim:

1. An African violet plant having uniform, red-purple blooms over a long period.

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U.S. Patent

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