

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED
BARBARA

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[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Barbara characterized by its single, round-looking, dark blue slightly frilled flowers; strong, upright flower stems that curve slightly toward the center to form a compact bouquet above the leaves; medium green, oval to round, slightly serrated leaves; profuse flowering, vigorous grown habit, flowering 10–11 weeks after potting, and its long lasting and non-dropping flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

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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 Barbara.

The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding and selection process by the designation G 17/17 and is a product of a planned breeding program. The new cultivar was originated from a cross made by me in the controlled breeding program in Haffen, Federal Republic of Germany. The female, or seed parent was a cultivar designated d 150/4. The male, or pollen parent was a cultivar designated 3/78.

Barbara was discovered and selected by me as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Haffen, West Germany. Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by leaf cuttings, as performed by me at Haffen, West Germany, has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

Barbara 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 following observations, measurements and values describe the new cultivar as grown in Haffen, 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 Barbara, which in combination distinguish this African violet as a new and distinct cultivar:

- (1) Strong, upright flower stems curving slightly toward the center.
- (2) Single, violet-shaped but round-looking dark blue flowers with slightly frilled edges.
- (3) Profuse flowering.
- (4) Each plant carries 8–9 and more upright flower stems each of which carries 7–9 and more flowers.
- (5) Long lasting, non-dropping flowers.
- (6) Vigorous grower.

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- (7) Plant saleable 10 to 11 weeks after potting.
- (8) Seed capsules push slightly through.
- (9) Round to oval, medium green, slightly serrated leaves.
- (10) After maturity the flowers dry off, and remain on the peduncle without becoming infected by botrytis.

The accompanying color 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 significance are referred to. Color values were taken under natural sunlight conditions at approximately 2 p.m. in Nashville, Tenn.

Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramt., c.v. Barbara.

Parentage:

Male parent.—3/78.

Female parent.—d 150/4.

Propagation: The new cultivar holds its distinguishing characteristics through successive propagations by leaf cuttings.

Plant: From 9 cm to 11 cm tall when grown in pots, and approximately 22–26 cm in diameter when fully grown.

Leaves.—General form: Round to oval. Diameter: 60–80 mm. Texture: Velvety. Aspect: slightly serrated, shiny, hairy. Veins: Upperside: well visible; underside: very well pronounced, light green, shiny. Color (upperside): Yellow-Green Group 147 A. Color (underside): Yellow-Green Group 148 D. Petiole: Strong upright, light green, occasionally with purplish touch, hairy.

Flowers.—Buds: ball-shaped, 7–9 mm just before opening, purple. Sepals: five (5). Color: Purplish green. Calyx: Shape: Funnel-shaped. Aspect: Spear-shaped, hairy. Peduncle: Character: Strong upright, hairy. Color: Purplish brown. Individual flowers: Size: 40–45 mm. Shape: Single violet-shaped with round petals that have

slightly frilled edges. Color (upperside): Violet-Blue Group 93 between A and B. Under cooler temperatures and more intensive lighting, the dark blue tends to intensify. Color (underside): Violet-Blue Group 89 C. Borne: Each flower stem carries 7-9 and more flowers on strong, upright peduncle that are free standing above the leaves, thereby forming a compact bouquet. Flowering habit: Flowers 10-11 weeks after potting.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: 2. Anthers: 2 composed of 4 anther cells, seed capsule pushes slightly through. Filaments: Yellowish green with dark purple on edge, 4-5 mm long. Pollen Color: Yellow group 7 A. Styles: 7-8 mm long, purplish blue, base of ovary light green and hairy.

Roots.—Normally developed, white when young, turning slightly brownish when older.

Disease resistance: Good.

General observations: Barbara is a very attractive, vigorous grower with medium green, round to oval

leaves that are slightly serrated. A tight bouquet of flowers free standing above the leaves develops after approximately 10-11 weeks. Each of the 8-9 strong flower stems carries 7-9 and more single, dark blue slightly frilled flowers contrasting nicely with the bright yellow anthers. The flowers are violet-shaped, but round-looking. Occasionally, 1-2 additional small petals may develop. The flowers are long-lasting and non-dropping.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Barbara, as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its single, round-looking, dark blue, slightly frilled flowers; strong, upright flower stems that curve slightly toward the center to form a compact bouquet above the leaves; medium green, oval to round, slightly serrated leaves; profuse flowering, vigorous growth habit, flowering 10-11 weeks after potting, and its long lasting and non-dropping flowers.

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U.S. Patent

Jul. 11, 1989

Plant 6,916

