

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED
DÉCENNIE

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[21] Appl. No.: 251,322

[22] Filed: Sep. 30, 1988

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ A01H 5/00

[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./69

[58] Field of Search Plt./69

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named
Décennie which is a sport of Gisela, disclosed in U.S.
Plant patent application Ser. No. 056,388. Décennie is
characterized its single, dark purplish pink flowers with
wavy, frilled edges; strong, upright flower stems that
curve slightly toward the center to form a tight bouquet
above the leaves; medium green, slightly serrated
leaves, profuse flowering, vigorous growth habit, flow-
ering 9–10 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 named Décennie.

The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding
and selection process by the designation M/I 11/16, and
is a sport of Gisela, disclosed in my pending U.S. Plant
patent application Ser. No. 056,388. Décennie is similar
in all essential respects to Gisela except for its dark
purplish pink flower color.

Décennie was discovered in a flowering block of the
parent cultivar Gisela, and subsequently selected. Asex-
ual reproduction of the new cultivar by leaf cutting, as
performed by me at Haffen, West Germany, has demon-
strated that the combination of characteristics as herein
disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and re-
tained through successive generations of asexual repro-
duction.

Décennie 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 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 Décen-
nie, which in combination distinguish this African violet
as a new and distinct cultivar:

- (1) Strong, upright flower stems curving slightly
toward the center.
- (2) Violet-shaped, dark purplish pink flowers with
lighter pink wavy, frilled edges.
- (3) Profuse flowering.
- (4) Each plant carries 8–10 and more upright flower
stems, each of which carries 5–8 and more flowers.
- (5) Long lasting, non-dropping flowers.
- (6) Vigorous grower.
- (7) First flash of flowers appears 9–10 weeks after
potting and forms a tight bouquet above the leaves.
- (8) Plant saleable 10 to 11 weeks after potting.
- (9) Seed capsules push slightly through.
- (10) Medium green, round to heart-shaped leaves.

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(11) 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 possi-
ble 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 sunlight conditions at approximately 1 p.m. in
Nashville, Tenn.

Botanical Classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat.,
c.v. Décennie.

Parentage: Sport of Gisela, disclosed in U.S. Plant pa-
tent application Ser. No. 056,388.

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 23–26 cm in diameter when fully
grown.

Leaves.—General form: Round or heart-shaped.
Diameter: 60–75 mm. Texture: Velvety. Aspect:
Shiny, hairy. Veins: Upperside: visible; under-
side: well pronounced, light green and shiny;
purplish in between the veins. Color (upperside):
Yellow-Green Group 147 between A and B.
Color (underside): Greyed-Green Group 194
between C and D. Petiole: Strong upright, light
green with purplish brown touch, hairy.

Flowers.—Buds: Bell-shaped, 7–8 mm just before
opening, light green with purplish touch. Sepals:
Five (5). Color: Green with brownish touch. Cal-
yx: Shape: Funnel-shaped. Aspect: Spear-
shaped, hairy. Peduncle: Character: Strong up-
right, hairy. Color: Purplish brown. Individual
flowers: Size: 45–50 mm. Shape: Single violet-
shaped (3 large and 2 small petals) with wavy
and frilled edges. Color (upperside): Purple
Group 78 between A and B, in the center a touch
of Red-Purple Group 59 C. The flowers appear-
ing at the top and slightly to the right of center in
the photograph very closely depict flower color.

There are a few flowers that appear more red than the stated color values, but that is due to imperfections in the photographic process. Under cooler temperature and more intensive lighting, the color tends to intensify. Color (underside): Purple Group 78 between B and C. Borne: Each flower stem carries 5-8 and more flowers on strong, upright peduncles that are free standing above the leaves, thereby forming a compact bouquet. Flowering habit: Flowers 9-10 weeks after potting.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Two (2). Anthers: 2 composed of 4 anther cells, seed capsule pushes slightly through. Filaments: Yellowish green with purplish traces 5 mm long. Pollen color: Yellow Group 7 A. Styles: 7-8 mm long, purplish red, base of ovary light green and hairy. Roots: Normally developed, white when young, turning slightly brownish when older.

Disease resistance: Good.
General observations: Décennie is a very attractive, vigorous grower with dark purplish pink flowers

contrasting nicely with the bright yellow anthers. Each of the 8-10 and more flowers stems carries 5-8 and more single, violet-shaped flowers with wavy, frilled edges. The color is less intensive around the edge. The flowers are long-lasting and non-dropping and the seed capsule pushes slightly through. A tight bouquet of flowers free standing above the medium green, slightly serrated leaves develops after approximately 9-10 weeks.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Décennie, as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its single, dark purplish pink flowers with wavy, frilled edges; strong, upright flower stems that curve slightly toward the center to form a tight bouquet above the leaves; medium green, slightly serrated leaves; profuse flowering, vigorous growth habit, flowering 9-10 weeks after potting, and its long-lasting and non-dropping flowers.

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U.S. Patent

Dec. 26, 1989

Plant 7,088

