

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED LITTLE TURQUOISE

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Little Turquoise characterized by its miniature growth habit; violet-blue semi-double flowers; strong stems which curve toward the center to form a compact bouquet above the leaves; profuse and continuous flowering; medium green, spear-shaped leaves; flowering 10–11 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot, and by 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 Little Turquoise.

The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding and selection process by the designation K 87/34 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 z/25/s. The male, or pollen parent was a cultivar designated H 73/3.

Little Turquoise 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.

Little Turquoise 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 a 4 cm pot 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 Little Turquoise, which in combination distinguish this African violet as a new and distinct cultivar:

- (1) Little Turquoise will not grow taller than 8 cm.
- (2) Semi-double, violet-blue flowers.
- (3) Strong wirelike and upright flower stems curving toward the center.
- (4) First flash of flowers form a tight bouquet above the leaves.
- (5) Profuse flowering; under good growing conditions continuous flowering.
- (6) Each plant carries 9–12 and more upright flower stems each of which carries 3–5 and more flowers.
- (7) Long lasting, non-dropping flowers.

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(8) Plant saleable 10 to 11 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot.

(9) Seed capsules push slightly through.

(10) Medium green, shiny leaves.

(11) Spear-shaped leaves are 2.0 to 3.0 cm in size.

(12) After maturity the flowers dry off, and remain on the peduncle.

The new cultivar is most similar to Little Sapphire, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,106. Similarities are the leaf color and shape and the flower color. However, in comparison to Little Sapphire, the new cultivar has larger and semi-double blooms. Little Turquoise also has a larger growth habit than Little Sapphire.

The accompanying color photographic drawing shows a typical specimen plant of the new cultivar grown in a 4 cm pot. The plant is pictured next to a ruler, highlighting the miniature size and growth habit of Little Turquoise. 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 12 p.m. in Nashville, Tenn.

Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat., c.v. Little Turquoise.

Parentage:

Male parent.—z/25/s.

Female parent.—H 73/3.

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

Plant: From 5 to 7 cm tall when grown in pots, and approximately 8–11 cm in diameter when fully grown.

Leaves.—General form: Spear-shaped Diameter: approximately 20 mm wide and 25 mm long. Texture: Leatherlike. Aspect: Shiny, hairy. Veins: Upperside: visible; underside: well pronounced, light green, shiny. Color (upperside): Yellow-Green Group 147 A. Color (underside): Yellow-Green Group 148 C; young leaves have a purplish red touch. Petiole: Strong, green with purplish red touch, hairy.

Flowers.—Buds: Size: 4–5 mm just before opening. Shape: Bell-shaped. Color: Purplish. Sepals: Five (5). Color: Brownish green. Calyx: Shape: Funnel-shaped. Aspect: Spear-shaped, hairy. Peduncle: Character: Strong upright, hairy. Color: 5 Brownish green. Individual flowers: Size: 25–28 mm. Shape: Semi-double (3–6 additional petals of varying sizes in addition to the standard five petals). Color (upperside): Between Violet-Blue Group 94 B and C. Under cooler temperatures 10 and more intensive lighting, the violet-blue tends to intensify. Color (underside): Violet-Blue Group 92 A to B. Borne: Each flower stem carries 3–5 and more flowers on strong, upright 15 peduncles that are free standing above the leaves, thereby forming a compact bouquet. Flowering habit: Flowers 10–11 weeks after planting an unrooted plantlet.

Reproductive Organs.—Stamens: Two (2). Anthers: 2 composed of 4 anther cells, seed capsule pushes 20 slightly through. Filaments: White with violet-blue touch, 2–3 mm long. Styles: 5–6 mm long, violet-blue, base of ovary light green and hairy.

Roots.—Normally developed, white when young, turning slightly brownish when older. 25

Disease resistance: Good.

General observations: Little Turquoise is a super miniature violet, which does not grow taller than 8 cm. The semi-double flowers are violet-blue and have 8–14 petals of varying sizes. The anthers are often covered up. The flowers are long-lasting and non-dropping. Under good growing conditions Little Turquoise will bloom continuously. A nice bouquet of flowers free standing above the medium green, spear-shaped leaves develops approximately 10–11 weeks after planting an unrooted plantlet. Each of the 9–12 and more strong flower stems carries 3–5 and more flowers.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Little Turquoise, as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its miniature growth habit; violet-blue, semi-double flowers; strong stems which curve toward the center to form a compact bouquet above the leaves; profuse and continuous flowering; medium green, spear-shaped leaves; flowering 10–11 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot, and by its long lasting and non-dropping flowers.

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U.S. Patent

Jul. 3, 1990

Plant 7,262

