

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET NAMED 'AGNES'

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new variety of African violet plant for potted plant culture particularly distinguished by its year 'round blooming capability, its profuse production of blooms in cluster like a nosegay, and its compact growth with abundant foliage of solid green color which provides a spreading base for the blossoms.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

This new variety of African violet plant was obtained by cross-pollenating the seed parent "Melodie" Mary-
×Holtkamp XX/79 and the pollen parent "Melodie"
Mitzi Sport. The seed pods of the pollinated plants
were used as the generic basis for initiating further
propagation trials. A total of 700 seedlings resulted
from the stated cross. Of these, 16 individual seedlings
were selected and retained for further observation to
assess vigor, early development, early blooming, and
bloom character; the mature characteristics of growth
habit; and, for testing to reflect disease resistance of the
selections.

The specified plant was a selection from among the
16 plants remaining from the initial cross. The plant of
this disclosure was selected based on a number of out-
standing characteristics including attractive, quality
plant confirmation with starkly contrasting top and
bottom leaf coloration with some mature leaves having
gentle undulations and the generous and central place-
ment of single flowers of attractive, rounded shape with
ruffled petal outer portions, moderately deep violet
petals which appealingly contrast with bright yellow,
conspicuous anthers, and was subsequently denomi-
nated 'Agnes'.

I have asexually reproduced 'Agnes' by taking leaf
cuttings to start plants in the usual way for *Saintpaulia*
ionantha. Descendants of this original selection have
proven to be completely the same as the parent plant in
all distinguishing characteristics to establish that 'Ag-
nes' is stable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Sheet one is a full color photograph view of the plant
in bloom, the colors shown being as nearly true as it is
reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photo-
graphic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

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

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THE PLANT

Name: Agnes.

Origin: Seedling.

Parentage:

Seed parent.—*Saintpaulia* Melodie Mary×Holt-
kamp XX/79.

Pollen parent.—*Saintpaulia* Melodie Mitzi Sport.

Classification:

Botanic.—*Saintpaulia ionantha*.

Commercial.—African violet.

Form: Rosette arrangement.

Height: 8 to 10 cm.

Growth: Moderate, petioles at first upright, becoming
horizontal with age.

Size: Medium, to 20 cm. in diameter.

Mutation prone: None observed for flowers or foliage.

Foliage:

Shape.—Ovate, slight cordate base, rounded tip,
slight crenate margin.

Length.—7 to 8 cm. on mature leaves.

Width.—6 to 7 cm. on mature leaves.

Color.—Uppside: Medium green. Underside:
Pale green.

Texture.—Uppside: Pubescent. Underside: Pu-
berulent.

Ribs and veins.—Pronounced, pinnate, red pig-
mented on underside.

Petiole.—Flattened above, pubescent, red pig-
mented.

THE FLOWER

Blooming habit: Continuous and abundant under opti-
mal growing conditions.

Number: 10 to 15 per peduncle.

Size of flower: 3 to 4 cm. in diameter.

Color: Violet-Blue R.H.S. 89A.

Type: Single, violet-like.

Petals: Five, margins ruffled.

Texture: Smooth, slightly flexible.

Appearance: Uppside glabrous, lower side slightly
puberulent.

Peduncles: 6 to 7 cm. in height, pubescent, red pig-
mented.

Inflorescence: Cyme, upright, above the foliage.

Calyx: Quinqu partite, red pigmented, puberulent.

Persistence: Flowers do not drop.

Fragrance: None.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamen: Two per flower.

Anthers.—Bright Yellow, basifixed, two per filament.

Filaments.—c. 0.4 cm. in length.

Pollen.—Light Yellow.

Pistils: One.

Stigma.—Visible and accessible, becoming swollen when receptive and exuding a droplet of clear liquid.

Style.—c. 0.7 cm. in length.

Ovary.—Superior.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named 'Agnes', as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its profuse deep violet-blue flowers, upright flower stems, vigorous growth habit, flowering 11 to 12 weeks after potting and its long lasting and non-dropping flowers which give the plant a substantially continuous beauty.

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