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van Andel

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[54] FREESIA PLANT VARIETY NAMED
‘VARABLUE’

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[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new plant variety of freesia with early flowering response
suitable for growing as a cut flower.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of
Freesia which originated by crossing two unpatented,
unnamed varieties of this creation at the Van Staaveren
Nursery in Aalsmeer, the Netherlands. The female parent is
identified as 3208-AT-1 and the male parent is identified as
841-J.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Among the features which distinguish the new variety
from other presently available and known commercial cul-
tivars are attractive flowers and early flowering response
after planting which distinguishes the new variety to be
suitable as a cut flower variety. Asexual reproduction of the
new variety by corms and cormlets in Aalsmeer, The Neth-
erlands has established that the distinctive characteristics are
transmitted through succeeding generations. The varietal
denomination of the new variety is ‘Varablue’.

FLOWERING TIME

Under conditions of growing plants under glass in The
Netherlands, Freesia plant varieties typically flower in about
22 to 23 weeks for plants planted in October; about 21 to 22
weeks for plants planted in December/January; and about 20
to 30 weeks for plants planted in June/July (flowering
depends on soil temperature after about 20 to 30 weeks). In
contrast to the above, the flowering time after planting in
October for ‘Varablue’ is about 18 weeks, about 16 weeks
and about 16 weeks for October planting, January planting
and June planting, respectively, under glass in Aalsmeer, The
Netherlands.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

The accompanying photograph illustrates the new variety
and shows the flowering thereof from bud to full bloom
depicted in color as nearly correct as it is possible to make
in a color illustration of this character. Throughout this
description, color values are based upon The Colour Chart of
The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England, except
where common terms of color definition are employed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following description is of Pot Freesia Plants of the
new cultivar grown under glass in Aalsmeer, Netherlands,

2

during the month of November. Phenotypic expression
may vary with environment, cultural and clematic
conditions, as well as differences and conditions in light,
soil, and temperature.

Plant

- A. *Form*.—Upright.
B. *Growth*.—Height attained: Up to about 100 cm.
Branching: No.
C. *Flower stem*.—1. Length: Up to about 100 cm. long.
2. Color: Near 143A.
D. *Foliage*.—1. Quantity: Relatively small. 2. Size:
Length — \pm about 100 cm. Width — \pm about 1.5 cm.
3. Shape of leaf: Oblongate. 4. Texture: Smooth (top
side and underside). 5. Color: Near 143A (top side
and underside). 6. Veination: yes, normal. 7. Stem
color: Near 143A. 8. Corms: Color: Brown with
brown scales. Size: Varying.

The bud stage.—A. Bud form: Long ovate. B. Bud size:
About 15 mm \times 55 mm. C. Opening rate: Medium. D.
Color: 1. When petals first divide: Near 92B. 2.
When petals begin to unfurl: Near 92B. 3. When
flowers open (inner petals): Top — near 92B. Bottom
— near 155D with some blue stripes near 92B. (outer
petals): Top — near 92B. Bottom — near 155D with
some blue stripes near 92B. 4. Calyx: Shape —
tubular. Size — small.

The flower stage:

- A *Inflorescence*.—1. Blooming habit: Intermittent. 2.
Approximate number of flowers: 8 to 9. 3. Form:
Cup. 4. Type: Raceme. 5. Diameter: About 55
mm \times 70 mm.
B. *Response (time from pinch)*.—Early. 1. Type: Single.
2. Form: Intermittent. 3. Borne: Raceme. 4. Size:
About 55 mm \times 70 mm. 5. Shape: Cup. 6. Color
tonality from a distance: Blue. 7. Lasting quality
(days) on plant: Long, over 14 days.
B *Flower color*.—1. Flower coloration: Violet-Blue. 2.
Inner petals: Top near 92B — botton near 155D 3.
Outer petals: Top near 92B — bottom near 155D. 4.
Point of petal attachment: Near 13A. 5. Discolora-
tion as bloom ages: Slight discoloration (lighter
blue). 6. Petals: Number of petals: 6. Arrangement:
Tubular. Texture: Soft. Shape: Broad elliptic. 7.
Color: Near 92B (top and underside).
C. *Persistence*.—18 days on the plant, 8 days after
cutting.

D. *Fragrance*.—None.
Reproductive organs:
A. *Stamens, filaments and anthers*.—1 Stamens: Triple
forked, violet. 2. Anthers: 3 singles. Color — violet
top, white bottom, yellow. 3. Filaments: base. Violet.
4. Pollen: White to yellow.
B. *Pistils*.—1 Styles: 3. 2. Stigmas: 1.

C. *Character of ovaries*.—Cylindrical.
D. *Calyx shape*.—Shape: Funnel. Size: About 8–12
mm.
I claim:
1. A new and distinct variety of freesia plant substantially
as described and illustrated herein.
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