



US00PP10870P

United States Patent [19]
Bull

[11] **Patent Number:** **Plant 10,870**
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 27, 1999**

[54] **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED
'NATHALIE'**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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GTITM UPOVROM Citation for 'Nathalie' As Per De PBR
IM 00417, Jan. 15, 1997.

[21] **Appl. No.:** **08/897,983**

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[22] **Filed:** **Jun. 23, 1997**

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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Nov. 20, 1996 [DE] Germany IM 417

[57] **ABSTRACT**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A01H 5/00**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant
named 'Nathalie', characterized by its bright orange-red
flower color, large flowers borne well above the foliage, very
dark green, almost blackish foliage, medium plant habit, and
early to medium flowering response.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./318**

[58] **Field of Search** **Plt./87.6, 318**

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 8,360 8/1993 Bull Plt./87.6

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-
tivar of New Guinea Impatiens, referred to by the cultivar
name 'Nathalie'.

'Nathalie' is a product of a planned breeding program and
was originated from a hybridization made by the inventor
Norbert Bull in a controlled breeding program in Goenne-
bek, Germany, in 1993. The female parent was a seedling
designated No. 6 and the male parent was a seedling
designated No. 10. Both parents are proprietary cultivars
used in the breeding program.

'Nathalie' was discovered and selected as one flowering
plant within the progeny of the stated cross by the inventor
in 1994 in a controlled environment in Goennebek, Ger-
many.

The first act of vegetative or asexual reproduction of
'Nathalie' was accomplished when cuttings were taken from
the initial selection in Autumn 1994 in a controlled envi-
ronment in Goennebek by, or under the supervision of,
Norbert Bull.

Horticultural examination of plants grown from these
cuttings initiated in Spring 1995 in Goennebek, Germany,
and continuing thereafter, has demonstrated that the combi-
nation of characteristics as herein disclosed for 'Nathalie'
are firmly fixed and are retained through successive genera-
tions of asexual reproduction.

'Nathalie' has not been observed under all possible envi-
ronmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly
with variations in environment such as temperature, light
intensity and day length, without, however, any variation in
genotype.

The following observations, measurements, and compari-
sons describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Federal Republic
of Germany under greenhouse conditions which approxi-
mate those generally used in commercial practice.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be basic characteristics of 'Nathalie',
which in combination distinguish this impatiens as a new
and distinct cultivar:

1. Bright orange-red flower color.
2. Large flowers, borne well above the foliage.
3. Very dark green, almost blackish foliage.
4. Medium plant habit.
5. Early to medium flower response.

6. Resistant to powdery mildew.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present
inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'Nathalie' is the
cultivar 'Marpesia' disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,401.

In comparison to 'Marpesia', 'Nathalie' has lighter orange
colored flowers (R.H.S. 40 A compared to 43 A for 'Marp-
esia'), narrower flower shape, more ovate shaped and even
darker colored leaves, and a more compact plant habit.

The accompanying colored photographic drawing shows
typical flower and foliage characteristics of 'Nathalie', with
colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this type.
In this regard, the colors in the illustration appear lighter
than the actual R.H.S. values for 'Nathalie'. The lighting is
bright as to give the appearance of lighter, less-intense hues.
The illustration depicts a relatively immature cultivar.

In the following description color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.

The color values were determined indoors from flowers
taken from plants grown in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of
Germany, under greenhouse conditions which approximate
those generally used in commercial practice.

The description is based on plants which were planted as
rooted cuttings in 10 cm pots in early March and then grown
in a greenhouse at 20° C. minimum temperature.

Classification:

Botanical.—A hybrid of the genus Impatiens.

Commercial.—New Guinea Impatiens cv 'Nathalie'.

Plant

A. General appearance and form:

Height.—10 cm (10 week old plants).

Width.—26 cm.

Internode length.—10–20 mm (short).

Stem color.—Mainly dark red, greenish stripes.

Lasting quality of the bloom.—Approximately two to
three weeks.

Flowering response.—About 8 weeks after planting of
rooted cuttings.

Rooting.—Color is R.H.S. 159 B-C; roots initiate in about 18 days at 22° C., from sticking to transplanting; no distinguishing rooting habit.

Flowering season.—Generally indeterminate, mainly from March to October, depending on light intensity.

Plant growth.—Indeterminate, although weak after flowering begins.

B. Foliage:

Leaf arrangement.—Primarily in whorls, with the aspect of the leaves almost horizontal.

Shape of leaf.—Ovate, with rounded or acute base, and a lightly acuminate tip.

Margin.—Slightly serrated, ciliated.

Leaf, length.—About 130 mm.

Leaf, width.—About 40–47 mm.

Main color of upper surface.—Greenish black, slightly olive marbled, mainly R.H.S. 139 A.

Veins on upper surface, color.—Light red.

Variation on leaf.—Absent.

Main color of lower surface.—Dark red, about R.H.S. 185 A.

Veins on lower surface, color.—Dark red.

Petiole, color.—Medium to dark red.

Petiole, length.—About 10 mm.

Inflorescence

A. Flower:

Flower number per node.—About 5–7, in various stages of development, usually one flower per leaf; flowers are borne well above the surface of the leaf canopy.

Form of corolla.—Single, somewhat zygomorph, upper petal cupped.

Average length.—6.8 cm.

Average width.—5.6 cm.

Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters)
—Orange-red.

Petal number.—Five (5).

Petal shape.—Heart-shaped, moderately lobed.

Petal size.—Lower and upper petals are about 32–35 mm in width and 28–32 mm in length, and side petals are about 25 mm in width and about 28 mm in length.

Petal texture.—Smooth, slightly glossy.

Main color of upper surface.—R.H.S. 40 A.

Color of lower surface.—R.H.S. 41 B.

Eye zone.—Hardly visible, pink, R.H.S. 57 D.

Spur, color.—R.H.S. 53 D.

Spur shape and size.—Downwardly curved, about 50 mm in length.

Pedicel, color.—Light green.

B. Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Stamens: Five (5) in number, fused, upper surface color is mainly R.H.S. 44 A. Anthers: Hooded, color is about R.H.S. 11 D. Pollen: Color is about R.H.S. 4 D.

Gynoecium.—Stigma and style: Five (5) in number, very short, color is about R.H.S. 60 A. Ovary: Five (5) celled, 3–5 mm in length, surface color is R.H.S. 139 A.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Nathalie', as illustrated and described.

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