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**Bessho et al.**

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED  
'COLORBURST ROSE'**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
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(56) **References Cited**  
**PUBLICATIONS**

Fehr, Walter R. Principles of Cultivar Development pp.  
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\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct Calibrachoa plant, and  
its parts, named 'Colorburst Rose' having a decumbent and  
compact habit. This plant grows vigorously with single  
flowers which have bright pink petals and a pale greenish  
yellow corolla throat. The plant is very resistant to rain, heat  
and drought conditions.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of  
Calibrachoa plant, hereinafter referred to by the name 'Col-  
orburst Rose'. 'Colorburst Rose' is a new variety of Cali-  
brachoa plant having a decumbent and compact habit. The  
plant grows vigorously and makes an excellent hanging  
basket. The invention's flowers are funnel shaped with  
five-fissured limbs, and a slight indent on each petal. The  
flowers are single with a diameter 2.8-3.5 cm when fully  
open. The petals are red-purple (RHS 74B) with a pale  
greenish yellow corolla throat (RHS 9A). The plant is very  
resistant to rain, heat and drought. The plant grows and  
flowers best under low soil pH conditions (pH 5-6). Typi-  
cally, flowers will stay open all day and night.

Classification of the current Petunia and Calibrachoa  
species is still in progress. The genus Petunia was originally  
established in 1803 by A. L. Jussieu, who described both *P.*  
*parviflora* and *P. nyctaginiflora* as type species. Using a  
non-horticultural system that selected the first mentioned  
species as the type species (lectotype), N. L. Britton and H.  
A. Brown declared *P. parviflora* as the type species for  
Petunia in 1913. During the 1980's and 1990, H. J. Wijsman  
published a series of articles regarding the ancestry of *P.*  
*hybrida*, the Garden Petunia, and the inter-relationship of  
several species classified as Petunia. These studies revealed  
that *P. hybrida* and its ancestral species, *P. nyctaginiflora*  
(=*P. axillaris*) and *P. violacea* (= *P. integrifolia*), possessed  
14 pairs of chromosomes while several other species,  
including *P. parviflora*, possessed 18 pairs of chromosomes.  
Since *P. parviflora* was the lectotype species for the Petunia  
genus, Wijsman and J. H. deJong proposed transferring the  
14 chromosome species to the genus Stimoryne. Horticultu-  
rists opposed reclassifying the Garden Petunia and in  
1986, Wijsman proposed the alternative of making *P.*  
*nyctaginiflora* the lectotype species for Petunia and trans-  
ferring the 18 chromosome species to another genus. The  
I.N.G. Committee adopted this proposal. By 1990 Wijsman  
had transferred several species, including *P. parviflora* (= *C.*  
*parviflora*) to Calibrachoa, originally established by Llave

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and Lexarza in 1825. *Calibrachoa parviflora* (= *C. mexicana*  
la Lave & Lexarza) is now the type species for the genus  
Calibrachoa.

As mentioned above, the classification of the current  
Petunia and Calibrachoa species is still in progress. New  
species are also being identified. Consequently a proper  
description has not been written for the Calibrachoa genus.  
Calibrachoa can, however, be distinguished from Petunia  
based on the higher chromosome number, chromosome  
morphology, plant branching habit and type of flower bud  
estivation. Whereas Petunia species bear a flower peduncle  
and one new stem from a node, Calibrachoa bear a flower  
peduncle and three stems. Petunia species have a cochlear  
corolla bud, a single outermost petal covers the other four,  
radially folded and terminally contorted petals. Calibrachoa  
flower buds are flat with all five petals linearly folded and  
the two lower petals forming a cover around the three other  
petals and fused together.

Asexual reproduction of 'Colorburst Rose' Calibrachoa  
originated from a hybridization made in 1996 in Kakegawa,  
Japan. The female parent was a cross between a bright  
purple-rose flowered, decumbent habit commercial variety  
named 'Liricashower Rose' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,884) and  
breeder code C-13. Variety C-13 originated from a commer-  
cial market in South America. A single plant from this cross  
was then backcrossed to 'Liricashower Rose'. The initial  
cross-pollination was made in June, 1995. This F<sub>1</sub> seed was  
sown in February, 1996 and yielded 20 plants. From these 20  
plants, one plant was selected and, during the summer of  
1996, 'Liricashower Rose' was crossed to it to produce BC<sub>1</sub>  
seed. In August, 1996 the BC<sub>1</sub> seed was sown and yielded  
50 plants. In December, 1996, five plants from these 50  
plants were selected and intercrossed in a diallele pattern to  
produce a diallele derived BC<sub>2</sub> population. In February,  
1997 plants from the diallele derived BC<sub>2</sub> population were  
selfed and the selfed seed produced from these plants was  
sown and yielded 50 plants. From these 50 plants, five plant  
lines were selected. In August, 1997 the five selected plant  
lines were vegetatively propagated and tested for easy  
reproducibility and stability of traits. One of these five plant



lines was hence selected for vigorous growth, decumbent habit and bright pink flower color. In December, 1997 cuttings of this plant line were sent to California. During the spring and summer of 1998, plants were grown under the direction and supervision of the inventors for evaluation of stability of the line's desired traits. Plants were evaluated in hanging pots Salinas, Calif., and in the field in Kakegawa, Japan.

The invention, 'Colorburst Rose' Calibrachoa, was determined by the inventors to have the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed. Plants were grown in plastic pots containing a peat moss-based media. The media pH was maintained between 5.0 and 6.0. Plants were grown under full sunlight in a greenhouse. The media was kept moist by overhead irrigation. A balanced fertilizer containing 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorous and 20% potassium was applied three times per week through irrigation. The air temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 27° C. during the day and 13° C. to 18° C. at night.

Plants can be finished to full bloom in a variety of containers, including 10, 15, 20 and 41 cm diameter pots. The traits were taken from plants grown in a 41 cm diameter hanging basket with a maturity of 5 months. Two generations of successive propagation were performed between the final selection and collection of traits listed herein.

The new variety is distinguished from other Calibrachoa plants by its flower color, limited branching and vigorous growth.

The closest commercial cultivar to this new variety that we are aware of is the petunia-like plant named 'Million Bells Trailing Pink'. The distinguishing characteristics which differentiate 'Colorburst Rose' from 'Million Bells Trailing Pink' are:

	'Colorburst Rose'	'Million Bells Trailing Pink'
Flower Color:	Bright pink	Bright bluish pink
Flower Size:	2.8–3.5 cm	Smaller
Flower Throat Color:	Pale greenish yellow	Light greenish yellow with pink veins
Growth Rate:	Very vigorous	Low vigor

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings serve by color photographic means to illustrate the new plant variety, 'Colorburst Rose'. The colors are represented as true as possible using conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. 1 is a close-up view of multiple blooms illustrating the decumbent, compact habit; abundant branching; and large profusion of blooms.

FIG. 2 is a view of the new cultivar after growing for several weeks in a hanging basket.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following description is based on observations and measurements of pot grown plants in Salinas, Calif. Color designations were made according to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England.

Origin: Seedling.

Parentage:

*Female parent*.—(Liricashower Rose×C-13)× Liricashower Rose.

*Male parent*.—Liricashower Rose (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,884).

Classification:

*Family*.—Solanaceae.

*Genus*.—Calibrachoa.

*Botanical*.—Unknown; Calibrachoa species.

*Commercial*.—'Colorburst Rose'.

Plant:

*Growth habit*.—Decumbent.

*Plant height*.—14 cm.

*Plant spread*.—14 cm in all directions from the edge of the pot.

Stem:

*Thickness*.—2.0–3.0 mm.

*Color*.—Yellowish green (144C).

*Pubescence*.—Clear, soft, irregular in height and moderately dense.

*Branching*.—Limited.

*Internode length*.—1.2–2.0 cm.

Leaf:

*Shape*.—Lanceolate with acute tip; leaf margin is entire.

*Length (average)*.—2.2 cm.

*Width (average)*.—0.7 cm.

*Thickness*.—0.5–1.0 mm.

*Color*.—Upper leaf surface is green (137B) and lower leaf surface is green (138B).

*Pubescence*.—Present on both sides of the leaf surface; clear, soft, irregular in height and slightly dense.

Flower:

*Shape*.—Funnel shape, with five-fissured limb, slight indent on each petal; the corolla has radial symmetry with fused sepals and petals. There are 5 sepals measuring 1.4 cm×2.0 mm. The sepal shape is lanceolate with an acute tip; ovary is superior. Petals are fused at 5 mm from the tip of each petal.

*Lobation*.—None.

*Depth*.—2.7 cm.

*Diameter*.—2.8–3.5 cm when fully open.

*Color*.—Unopened stage: Red-purple (74B); Mature upper petal is red-purple (74B); lower petal is red-purple (74C); main vein petal color is black (202A) with purple tinge.

*Reproductive organs*.—One green yellow (154C) pistil, five green yellow (154C) stamens, 2 with long filaments bending upward over the pistil and 3 short filaments, anther is yellow and filaments are white.

*Fragrance*.—None.

*Fruit/seed*.—Not produced.

*Type*.—Perennial.

*Time for rooted cuttings*.—4 weeks.

*Disease, pest and cold tolerance*.—Plants are susceptible to Botrytis, powdery mildew, various stem and root rots and certain viruses such as Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spotted Virus. Plants can be infected with aphids, leafminer, whitefly and various Lepitopdera. These plants are cold tolerant lasting through the winter under snow cover.

*Blooming habit.*—Plants begin to bloom with long days beginning in March and continuing through October. Each bloom lasts three days and stay open day and night. The blooms are fairly cold tolerant but will not withstand freezing temperatures.

*Bloom quantity.*—Mature plants grown in a 41 cm diameter hanging basket can have in excess of 700

open flowers at any given time and the inflorescence is solitary.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant named ‘Colorburst Rose’ as shown and described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2