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(54) **KALANCHOE PLANT NAMED 'PETERO'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Kalanchoe plant named 'Petero', characterized by its numerous, large, and bright orange-colored flowers; upright and uniform plant habit; freely branching growth habit; dark green and glossy leaves; early flowering; and excellent postproduction longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Kalanchoe plant, botanically known as *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Petero'.

The new Kalanchoe is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Lier, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program was to create new freely-branching Kalanchoe cultivars with compact plant habit, numerous flowers, and attractive foliage and flower coloration.

The new Kalanchoe originated from a cross made by the Inventor in 1996 of the *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* cultivar Mount Loa, disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 10,026, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* cultivar Santorini, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Petero was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in De Lier, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new Kalanchoe by terminal cuttings taken at De Lier, The Netherlands, since 1996 has shown that the unique features of the new Kalanchoe are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Petero has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, daylength and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Petero'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Petero' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Numerous, large, and bright orange-colored flowers.
2. Upright and uniform plant habit.
3. Freely branching growth habit.
4. Dark green and glossy leaves.
5. Early flowering.
6. Excellent postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new Kalanchoe can be compared to plants of the female parent, the cultivar Mount Loa. In side-by-side

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comparisons conducted by the Inventor in De Lier, The Netherlands, plants of the new Kalanchoe differ from plants of the cultivar Mount Loa in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Kalanchoe are more freely branching than plants of the cultivar Mount Loa.
2. Inflorescence form of plants of the new Kalanchoe is not as open as inflorescence form of plants of the cultivar Mount Loa.
3. Plants of the new Kalanchoe flower about one week earlier than plants of the cultivar Mount Loa.
4. Flower color of plants of the new Kalanchoe is bright orange whereas flower color of plants of the cultivar Mount Loa is red-orange.

Plants of the new Kalanchoe can be compared to plants of the male parent, the cultivar Santorini. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in De Lier, The Netherlands, plants of the new Kalanchoe differ from plants of the cultivar Santorini in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Kalanchoe are more compact and more uniform than plants of the cultivar Santorini.
2. Plants of the new Kalanchoe have larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Santorini.
3. Plants of the new Kalanchoe have better keeping quality than plants of the cultivar Santorini.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new Kalanchoe, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Kalanchoe. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical potted plant of 'Petero'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Unpinched plants used for the photograph and for the description were grown during the autumn in De Lier, The Netherlands, in a glass-covered greenhouse. During the

production of the plants, the following measurements were recorded: day temperatures about 19 to 26° C.; night temperatures about 20 to 21° C.; and light levels about 10,000 to 50,000 lux. Unrooted cuttings were directly stuck in 10-cm containers and received long day/short night conditions (more than 14 hours of light) for about 22 days; plants then received photoinductive short day/long night conditions (minimum 14 hours darkness) until flowering. Plants were about 14 weeks old from an unrooted cutting when the photograph and the description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* cultivar Petero.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* cultivar Mount Loa, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,026.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* cultivar Santorini, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 10 days at 21° C. Winter: About 14 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Summer: About 21 days at 21° C. Winter: About 28 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fine, fibrous, and well-branched.

Plant description:

Form.—Upright and uniform plant habit, relatively compact, with numerous compound cymes; very freely flowering. Inverted triangle with rounded crown; actual plant shape will depend on whether or not plants are pinched (apical terminals removed). Appropriate for 10 to 15-cm containers.

Crop time.—About 11 to 14 weeks: 3 to 4 weeks under long day/short night conditions followed by 8 to 10 weeks of short day/long night conditions. Moderate growth rate.

Plant height at flowering.—About 20 cm.

Plant diameter of flowering.—About 16 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching; typically 6 to 7 lateral branches develop per plant. Pinching (removal of terminal apex) is not required but will enhance lateral branch development.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 12 to 15 cm. Diameter: About 3 to 6 cm. Internode length: About 2 to 3 cm. Aspect: Erect. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 147A.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, opposite, generally symmetrical. Quantity per plant: About 8 to 13 mature leaves and 14 to 22 generative leaves. Length: About 10 cm. Width: About 8 cm. Aspect: Concave. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Acute. Margin: Crenate. Texture: Leathery, glabrous and succulent. Color: Young and mature foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 147A to 147B. Young and mature foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 147B. Petiole length: About 1.5 cm. Petiole diameter: About 4 by 8 mm. Petiole color: Upper surface, 147A to 147B; lower surface 147B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single flowers arranged in compound dichasial cymes that arise from leaf axils.

Freely flowering; more than 25 open flowers per lateral branch and more than 150 open flowers per plant. Flowering continuously for at least 7 weeks. Flowers persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Plants of the new *Kalanchoe* initiate and develop flowers under short day/long night conditions or during the late autumn/winter/early spring. Flower initiation and development can also be induced under artificial short day/long night conditions (at least 14 of darkness).

Time to flower.—Under short day/long night photoinductive conditions, about 8 to 10 weeks are required. Actual time to flower is primarily dependent upon temperature and light intensity.

Post-production longevity.—Excellent post-production longevity; plants maintain good foliage and flower substance for about 59 days under interior environmental conditions. Individual flowers last about 20 days on the plant.

Flower diameter.—About 1.8 cm.

Flower height.—About 1.5 cm.

Flower buds.—Shape: Initially oblong, becoming tubular ovoid with development. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Color: Initially, 138C, then 33D with development.

Petals.—Quantity: Four fused at base. Length: About 8.5 mm. Width: About 6 mm. Aspect: Flat to slightly upright. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Glabrous, smooth and satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 40A. When opening, lower surface: 29D to 32D. Fully opened, upper surface: 40B, fading to 40C with subsequent development; base, 17B to 21B. Fully opened, lower surface: 29D to 32D.

Sepals.—Quantity: Four fused at base. Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Aspect: Erect. Shape: Oblong. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Glabrous, smooth. Color, both surfaces: 138D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Aspect: Erect. Strength: Strong, flexible. Texture: Smooth, leathery. Color: 138B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Stamen number: Eight per flower. Anther shape: Flat, elliptic. Anther size: About 0.3 mm. Anther color: Close to 150D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 12A. Pistils: Pistil number: Four per flower. Style length: About 8 mm. Style color: 138D. Stigma shape: Flat, rounded. Stigma color: 8D. Ovary color: 138D.

Seed.—Seed production has not been observed.

Disease resistance.—Plants of the new *Kalanchoe* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens common to *Kalanchoes*.

Temperature tolerance.—Plants of the new *Kalanchoe* have been observed to tolerate low temperatures of 12° C. and high temperatures of 35° C.

Garden performance.—Plants of the new *Kalanchoe* perform have been observed to perform well in the garden and are tolerant to rain and wind.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Kalanchoe* plant named 'Petero', as illustrated and described.

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