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(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Trees**

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(54) **INTERSPECIFIC LOBELIA PLANT NAMED**  
**‘PERIWINKLE BLUE’**

\* cited by examiner

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(\*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

PP10,758 P \* 1/1999 Westhoff ..... **Plt./263**

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention comprises a new and distinctive  
Lobelia plant, hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name  
Periwinkle Blue. This new cultivar was the result of a unique  
interspecific cross between *Lobelia erinus* and *Lobelia*  
*valida*. More specifically, the breeding program which  
resulted in the production of the new cultivar was carried out  
at Arroyo Grande, Calif. in 1997. The female or seed parent  
of Periwinkle Blue was the *Lobelia erinus* plant from the  
Palace Series named ‘Blue With Eye’ (unpatented) which  
exhibits dark purple-blue flowers with white centers or  
“eyes” and has a semi-trailing habit. The male or pollen  
parent of Periwinkle Blue was an unnamed *Lobelia valida*  
plant which exhibits lavender-blue flowers and an upright  
habit. The resulting seed was collected and germinated.  
From the flowering progeny, a single plant was selected and  
initially designated BPF-100, and now given the cultivar  
name ‘Periwinkle Blue’. The parentage of the new cultivar  
can be summarized as follows:

*Lobelia erinus*×*Lobelia valida*

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cut-  
tings taken during 1998 and 1999 at Arroyo Grande, Calif.,  
U.S.A. has demonstrated that the characteristics of the new  
cultivar as herein described are firmly fixed and are retained  
through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

**SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

It was found that the cultivar of the present invention:

(a) exhibits initial upright growth followed by a semi-  
trailing habit,

(b) forms sky-blue flowers with white “eyes”,

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(c) exhibits a vigorous growth habit,

(d) is extremely floriferous.

The ‘Periwinkle Blue’ cultivar has not been observed  
under all possible environmental conditions to date.  
Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary  
somewhat with variations in the environment, such as  
temperature, light intensity, and day length.

When the new cultivar of the present invention is com-  
pared to the *Lobelia* plant ‘Azuro’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.  
10,758) it is found that the new cultivar exhibits a more  
vigorous, trailing growth habit and lighter blue flower color.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

The accompanying photographs show as nearly true as it  
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations  
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the  
new cultivar. The plants were grown in a greenhouse at West  
Chicago, Ill., USA.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The chart used in the identification of colors described  
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticul-  
tural Society, London, England. The color values were  
determined on Mar. 13, 2000 in West Chicago, Ill. The  
readings were taken between 1:00 and 1:45 p.m. under  
approximately 2500 footcandles of light. The plants were  
produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and were  
grown under greenhouse conditions comparable to those  
used in commercial practice while utilizing a soilless growth  
medium and maintaining temperatures of approximately 72°  
F. during the day and approximately 65° F. during the night.  
The plants used for the following descriptions and measure-  
ments were grown for 9 weeks after the planting of rooted  
cuttings.

Commercial classification: Trailing Interspecific Lobelia hybrid.

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—Terminal tip.

*Time to initiate roots.*—Approximately 14–21 days with the shorter times generally being experienced in the summer and the longer times in the winter.

*Root description.*—Fibrous.

*Crop time.*—Finished plants are produced eight to ten weeks after planting of rooted cuttings in 10 cm pots.

Plant description:

*General appearance and form.*—Upright to trailing.

*Plant height.*—Approximately 21 cm.

*Plant width.*—Approximately 30 cm.

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching with lateral branches forming at every node.

*Lateral branch diameter.*—Approximately 2 mm.

*Internode length.*—Approximately 3.3 cm.

*Stem color.*—Yellow-Green Group 137A.

*Stem texture.*—Smooth.

Foliage description:

*Leaf form.*—Single, simple.

*Leaf arrangement.*—Alternate.

*Leaf texture.*—Smooth.

*Leaf base.*—Attenuate, sessile.

*Leaf aspect.*—Flat.

*Upper leaves.*—Shape: linear. Margin: remotely serrate. Apex: acute. Size: 2.7 cm in length, 0.5 cm in width. Color of mature foliage: upper surface — 137A, lower surface — 137B.

*Lower leaves.*—Shape: Spatulate/obovate. Margin: closely serrate. Apex: rounded. Size: 5 cm in length, 1.3 cm in width. Color of mature foliage: upper surface — 137B, lower surface — 137C.

Flower description:

*Flowering habit.*—Periwinkle Blue is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring until fall.

*Flowers borne.*—Outwardly, inverted because of twisted pedicel.

*Pedicel length.*—Approximately 2 cm.

*Pedicel color.*—141B.

*Flower form.*—Labiata, upper lip consists of two small petals; lower lip consists of three broader petals. Petals are fused at base forming a tube, tube is split almost to base along one side.

*Flower arrangement.*—Singly, in loose racemes.

*Quantity of flowers.*—Numerous, one per axil.

*Flower size.*—Diameter: approximately 1.6 cm, length: approximately 1.8 cm.

*Petal texture.*—Smooth, dull.

*Petal margin.*—Entire.

*Upper petals.*—Shape: linear, size: 8 mm in length, 3 mm in width at tip.

*Lower petals.*—Shape: Obovate, size: 1 cm in length, 6 mm in width at tip.

*Flower color.*—Upper surface of upper petals is 99C, lower surface of upper petals is 96C. Middle lower petal is white from throat  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way to margin, 95C marginal  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Side lower petals are 99C along the outer, lateral  $\frac{1}{2}$  and marginal  $\frac{1}{3}$ , RHS 155D on inner  $\frac{1}{2}$  for  $\frac{2}{3}$  the distance from throat to margin. The three lower petals are fused for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their length. Yellow spots (between 154A and 1A) appear at base where petals are joined, streaks of 101A appear at base along division of areas of white and 99C. All petals fade to 95C.

*Flower bud shape.*—Tubular.

*Flower bud length.*—Approximately 1.1 cm.

*Flower bud diameter.*—Approximately 3 mm.

*Sepals.*—Five, fused to form calyx.

*Calyx.*—Length: approximately 8 mm, diameter: approximately 2 mm, apex: acuminate, texture: smooth, color: 137C.

*Reproductive organs.*—Stamens: quantity — 5, approximately 8 mm in length, filament color — 100D, anther length — approximately 2 mm, anther color — 103B. Pistil: approximately 9 mm in length, the stigma is round, its color is 89A, the style color is 144A, the ovary color is 144A.

*Disease resistance.*—Resistance to pathogens has not been observed.

*Seed production.*—Seed production has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct Lobelia plant named 'Periwinkle Blue' substantially herein illustrated and described, which:
  - a) Exhibits initial upright growth followed by a semi-trailing habit,
  - (b) Forms sky-blue flowers with white 'eyes',
  - (c) Exhibits a vigorous growth habit,
  - (d) Is extremely floriferous.

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