



US00PP12808P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP12,808 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 30, 2002**

(54) **BEGONIA PLANT NAMED '77KL SUNRISE'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(73) **Assignee:** **Golden State Bulb Growers**, Moss Landing, CA (US)

A new and distinct cultivar of Begonia plant named '77KL Sunrise' characterized by having a definite and distinct flower fragrance that can be described as sweet and lingering but subtle and not overpowering. It is often compared to the scent of a fragrant rose bloom. The fragrance is most pronounced when the temperature is between 65° and 80° F. The cultivar has a distinctly bi-colored flower fading from a pale yellow center to a scarlet color at the margin. The male flowers are fully double and do not produce pollen or male reproductive parts under normal growing conditions. '77KL Sunrise' has a full and semi-pendulous plant habit with numerous flower shoots (4–6 or more). Each flowering shoot will produce anywhere from 4–6 peduncles with 1 or 2 male flowers on each during the growing season.

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

(21) **Appl. No.:** **09/488,575**

(22) **Filed:** **Jan. 21, 2000**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./344**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./344, 348**

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2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinctive cultivar of Begonia plant, botanically known as *Begonia tuberhybrida* (Pendula-type), and known by the cultivar name '77KL Sunrise'.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program and was originated from a hybridization made during such a program in Watsonville, Calif. in 1991. The female or seed parent was a proprietary Begonia selection designated 77EE. The male or pollen parent was a proprietary Begonia selection designated 77A 5556 ILAH. '77KL Sunrise' was discovered and selected within the progeny of the stated cross by the inventor, Andrew B. Snow, in a controlled environment in Watsonville, Calif. in 1992.

The first act of asexual reproduction of '77KL Sunrise' was accomplished by leaf and stem cuttings in 1993 in a controlled environment in Moss Landing, Calif. by Andrew B. Snow. Horticultural examination of selected units has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for '77KL Sunrise' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics distinguish the new cultivar from both its parents and other Begonia cultivars commercially known and used in the floriculture industry:

1. A definite and distinct flower fragrance that can be described as sweet and lingering but subtle and not overpowering. It is often compared to the scent of a fragrant rose bloom. The fragrance is most pronounced when the temperature is between 65° and 80° F.

2. A distinctly bi-colored flower fading from a pale yellow center to a scarlet color at the margin;

3. Male flowers which are fully double and do not produce pollen or male reproductive parts under normal growing conditions; and

4. Full and semi-pendulous plant habit with numerous flower shoots (4–6 or more). Each flowering shoot will produce anywhere from 4–6 peduncles with 1 or 2 male flowers on each during the growing season.

5 '77KL Sunrise' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and daylength, without any change in genotype.

10 Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present inventor, there is no known Begonia cultivar with which the new cultivar can be meaningfully compared. The color variance and gradation is unique, as is the distinct fragrance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 The accompanying color photographic illustrations were taken on Aug. 20, 1999, and show typical flower and foliage characteristics of '77KL Sunrise' when grown in a 10-inch plastic pot, with colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this type.

20 The first drawing is a side elevational view of '77KL Sunrise'.

25 The second drawing is a top view of the claimed cultivar showing the characteristics of the upper and lower surfaces of the flower and foliage.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

30 The following observations, measurements, and values describe a 1 year old tuber of '77KL Sunrise' as grown in Watsonville, Calif. under conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice. The plant is grown in a greenhouse with ambient temperatures of 60–75° F. The greenhouse is provided with a 50% shade cover that limits the light to under 2000-foot candles. '77KL Sunrise' is grown in a soilless mix and fed with a regular, complete fertilizer such as 20-10-20 at a rate of 200 ppm N, once every week.

Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Classification:

Botanical.—A hybrid of the genus *Begonia tuberybrida* (Pendula-type).

Commercial.—*Begonia* cv. 77KL Sunrise.

Parentage:

Male parent.—*Begonia* cultivar designated 77A 5556 ILAH.

Female parent.—*Begonia* cultivar designated 77EE.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Leaf and stem cuttings.

Time to root.—Approximately 24 to 30 days at 21° C. (summer) and 32 to 38 days at 21° C. (winter).

Rooting habit/description.—Abundant, fibrous and dendritic.

Time for shoot development.—Slow, 10 to 14 weeks in summer and up to 16 weeks in winter.

Plant:

Form.—Low mounding, semi-pendulous and herbaceous.

Growth habit.—Slow, uniform growth with numerous shoots and moderate branching habit at full growth. The plant is well rounded with a height of about 10 to 15 inches, excluding the container, with up to 20-inch pendulous shoots. The width is approximately 24 inches.

Vigor.—A full grown plant takes 12 weeks after planting a tuber which has been given a sufficient dormant period.

Stem.—RHS 42 A on the upper surface in direct light; and RHS 153 D with a red cast, RHS 26 C, when in indirect light.

Foliage:

Habit.—Simple, alternate, and borne on semi-rigid petioles 3 to 6 inches in length.

Size.—At maturity, the leaves reach 7 to 9 inches from base to apex, and at their widest point the leaves are 6 to 7 inches in width.

Shape.—Triangular-cordate with acuminate tip between rounded-based lobes.

Texture.—Firm, crisp, but not brittle; sparsely hirtellous on both surfaces.

Margin.—Doubly serrate.

Color.—Immature: Top surface: Slightly darker than RHS 143A but brighter than RHS 139A. Under surface: RHS 147C, sometimes blushed with red, RHS 45C, between the veins. Mature: Top surface: RHS 147A. Under surface: RHS 147B to 147C.

Venation.—Reticulate.

Flower:

Habit.—Flowering is presented on a pendulous raceme. Often, but not always, secondary male and female flowers will develop below the primary male and

female flowers. Some peduncles have a solitary male flower, while others may have a solitary male flower accompanied by either a solitary secondary male flower or matching female flower and occasionally a secondary male and female flower. Peduncle color is RHS 42 A on the upper surface in direct light; and RHS 153 D with a red cast, RHS 26 C, when in indirect light.

Natural flowering season.—Summer and fall months.

Lastingness of the individual bloom.—It takes approximately 5–6 weeks for pollinated female flowers to ripen; individual blooms fade and the petals wither.

Size.—Male: Approximately 5 to 6 inches in diameter. Female: Approximately 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

Buds.—Flat, nearly round, tending towards bell shaped; red in color, RHS 38 A at the attachment, yellow-green RHS 149 B at the margin; male buds begin to open at approximately 4 cm long.

Borne.—On small pedicels originating from long (5 to 8 inches) axillary peduncles, resulting in a solitary male flower, a solitary male and one or two female flowers, and occasionally secondary male and female flowers as raceme develops.

Quantity.—Approximately 2 to 5 flowers per peduncle and numerous (3 to 5) peduncles per shoot, with 5 to 7 shoots per plant.

Sepals:

Shape.—Orbicular with a dentate edge.

Number.—2.

Size.—6 cm long, 7.5 cm wide when flower is fully open.

Tepals:

Shape.—Round to obovate.

Color.—Top surface: In spring and summer when opening, inner tepals are RHS 12B at the center to RHS 39B mixed with white at the edge; outer tepals are RHS 24A at the center to RHS 39B at the edge. Under surface: Same as the top surface or slightly darker. Sepals are as dark as RHS 41A.

Number.—Approximately 25 to 35 on male flowers and 5 on female flowers.

Size.—Outer (male) up to 3.0 by 3.0 inches.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—Fully petaloid.

Pistils.—Stigma shape: Multi-lobed. Stigma color: RHS 17B. Style color: RHS 17B. Ovaries: Number: 3. Size: Approximately $\frac{5}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Color: RHS 144C with RHS 41A on tips if grown in high light.

Fruit/seeds.—No observations to date.

Resistance to disease: Good resistance to powdery mildew, other fungus, and to *Xanthomonas* bacteria blight.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia* plant named '77KL Sunrise', as illustrated and described.

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