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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'KLEEC00070'

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant named
'KLEEC00070', characterized by its compact and cascading
plant habit; early and freely flowering habit; violet purple-
colored flowers; and good weather tolerance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

Calibrachos sp. cultivar KLEEC00070.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Calibrachoa plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa*
sp., and hereinafter referred to by the name 'KLEEC00070'.

The new Calibrachoa is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart, Germany.
The objective of the program is to create new early-
flowering Calibrachoa cultivars with cascading and freely
branching growth habit and attractive flower colors.

The new Calibrachoa originated from a cross made by the
Inventor during the summer of 1998 of a proprietary selec-
tion of Calibrachoa identified as code number R 14, not
patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary
selection of Calibrachoa identified as code number J 57, not
patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Calibra-
choa was selected by the Inventor in May, 1999 in a
controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany, on the basis
of its cascading plant habit and violet purple-colored flow-
ers.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Stuttgart,
Germany since June, 1999, has shown that the unique
features of this new Calibrachoa are stable and reproduced
true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar KLEEC00070 have not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity, daylength, water status and
fertility level without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of
'KLEEC00070'. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish 'KLEEC00070' as a new and distinct cultivar of Cali-
brachoa:

1. Compact and cascading plant habit.
2. Early flowering.
3. Freely flowering habit.

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4. Violet purple-colored flowers.

5. Good weather tolerance; tolerant to rain and low and
high temperatures.

5 Plants of the new Calibrachoa differ primarily from plants
of the female parent selection, R 14, in flower color as flower
color of plants of the new Calibrachoa is darker than flower
color of plants of the female parent selection. Plants of the
new Calibrachoa differ primarily from plants of the male
parent selection, J 57, in plant habit as plants of the new
Calibrachoa have a more cascading plant habit than plants of
the male parent selection.

15 Plants of the new cultivar can be compared to plants of the
Calibrachoa cultivar KLEEC00069, U.S. Plant Patent appli-
cation filed concurrently with this application. In side-by-
side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart,
Germany, plants of the new Calibrachoa differed from plants
of the cultivar KLEEC00069 in the following characteristics:

- 20 1. Plants of the new Calibrachoa are not as cascading as
plants of the KLEEC00069.
2. Plants of the new Calibrachoa have smaller flowers
than plants of the KLEEC00069.
- 25 3. Flower color of plants of the new Calibrachoa is darker
than flower color of plants of the KLEEC00069.

30 Plants of the cultivar KLEEC00070 can also be compared
to plants of the Calibrachoa cultivar Sunbelkubi, not pat-
ented. However in side-by-side comparisons conducted by
the Inventor in Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new Cali-
brachoa and the cultivar Sunbelkubi differ in the following
characteristics:

- 35 1. Plants of the new Calibrachoa have smaller leaves than
plants of the cultivar Sunbelkubi.
2. Plants of the new Calibrachoa have larger flowers than
plants of the cultivar Sunbelkubi.
- 40 3. Flower color of plants of the new Calibrachoa is
slightly lighter than flower color of plants of the cultivar
Sunbelkubi.
- 45 4. Flowers of plants of the new Calibrachoa do not close
under low light conditions whereas flowers of plants of the
cultivar Sunbelkubi close under low light conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, 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 *Calibrachoa*. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'KLEC00070' grown in a hanging basket container.

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. Plants grown in 12-cm containers were used for following description. Plants were grown under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions from January to May in Stuttgart, Germany in polyethylene-covered greenhouses. Plants used for the description and the photographs were about four months from planting rooted cuttings. During the production period, day and night temperatures ranged from about 10 to 18° C. and light levels were about 20,000 lux during the beginning of the production period increasing to 50,000 lux towards the end of the production period.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as R 14, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as J 57, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—Summer: About 21 days at 20 to 26° C. Winter: About 28 days at 20° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fine, fibrous, well-branched, white in color.

Plant description:

Form.—Annual flowering plant; initially upright to semi-upright then cascading; uniform, flattened and mounded appearance.

Usage.—Appropriate for hanging baskets, window boxes and patio containers.

Plant height (from soil level to top of plant plane).—About 4 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 35 cm.

Growth rate.—Relatively slow.

Branching habit.—About 4 to 6 lateral branches per plant; pinching is typically not required.

Lateral branch description.—*Length*: About 18 cm. *Diameter*: About 3 to 8 mm. *Internode length*: About 5 to 10 mm. *Texture*: Smooth, glabrous. *Color*: 145B.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical and long persisting; sessile. *Arrangement*: Alternate. *Length*: About 2 to 3.5 cm. *Width*: About 8 to 12 mm. *Shape*: Elliptic. *Apex*: Broadly acute. *Base*: Attenuate. *Margin*: Entire. *Texture*: Smooth, glabrous. *Venation pattern*: Pinnate. *Color*: Young

foliage, upper surface: 137A. Young foliage, lower surface: 138A. Mature foliage, upper surface: 137A. Mature foliage, lower surface: 138B. *Venation*, upper and lower surfaces: 145B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Flowers face somewhat upright or outward; single, axillary; salverform. Flowers not persistent. Freely flowering with about 10 to 15 flowers per lateral stem. Not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Spring until frost in the autumn; flowering continuous.

Time to flower.—Early flowering; plants begin flowering about 12 weeks after planting.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About 7 days.

Flower size.—*Diameter*: About 3 to 3.5 cm. *Tube length*: About 1.4 cm. *Throat diameter, distal end*: About 7 mm. *Tube diameter, proximal end*: About 1 to 2 mm.

Flower buds (before showing color).—*Length*: About 1 cm. *Diameter*: About 7 mm. *Shape*: Roughly oblong. *Color*: 149C.

Corolla.—*Arrangement/appearance*: Single whorl of five petals, fused into flared trumpet. *Petal length from throat*: About 1.3 cm. *Petal width*: About 1.5 cm. *Petal shape*: Roughly spatulate with obtuse apex. *Petal margin*: Entire. *Petal texture*: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. *Color*: Petal, upper surface, when opening: 89B. Petal, lower surface, when opening: 89D. Petal, upper surface, opened flower: 83B, flower color does not fade with subsequent development; *venation*, 79A. Petal, lower surface, opened flower: 83D; *venation*, 79A. *Flower throat (inside)*: 160A; *venation*, 79A. *Flower tube (outside)*: 82A; *venation*, 79A.

Sepals.—*Arrangement/appearance*: Single whorl of five sepals, star-shaped. *Length*: About 1.2 to 1.7 cm. *Width*: About 4 mm. *Shape*: Lanceolate. *Apex*: Acute. *Margin*: Entire. *Texture*: Smooth, glabrous. *Color*: Upper surface: 138A. Lower surface: 138B.

Peduncles.—*Length*: About 1.3 to 1.6 cm. *Width*: About 2 mm. *Strength*: Moderately strong. *Angle*: Erect to about 15° from vertical. *Texture*: Smooth, glabrous. *Color*: 144B.

Reproductive organs.—*Stamens*: *Quantity*: Five per flower. *Anther shape*: Elliptic. *Anther length*: About 1 to 2 mm. *Anther color*: 11B. *Pollen amount*: Scarce. *Pollen color*: 11B. *Pistils*: *Quantity*: One per flower. *Pistil length*: About 6 mm. *Stigma shape*: Oval. *Stigma color*: 149A. *Style length*: About 4 mm. *Style color*: 150A. *Ovary color*: 154A.

Seed.—Seed production has not been observed.

Disease resistance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have not been noted to be resistant to Powdery Mildew.

Weather/temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are tolerant to rain and wind and have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 1 to 50° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named 'KLEC00070', as illustrated and described.

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