



US00PP13670P29

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Lamb et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP13,670 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 18, 2003**

(54) **SPATHIPHYLLUM PLANT NAMED**
'VALENTINO'

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./364**
(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./364**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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

A distinct cultivar of Spathiphyllum plant named
'Valentino', characterized by its upright, somewhat out-
wardly arching and symmetrical plant habit; glossy dark
green leaves; rapid growth rate; freely flowering habit;
white-colored spathes that are positioned well above the
foliage on erect peduncles; and good postproduction lon-
gevity.

(21) **Appl. No.:** **10/142,841**

(22) **Filed:** **May 10, 2002**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

4 Drawing Sheets

1

2

**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR
DESIGNATION**

Spathiphyllum hybrid cultivar Valentino.

These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Valentino' as a new and distinct Spathiphyllum cultivar:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Spathiphyllum plant, botanically known as Spathi-
phyllum hybrid, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name Valentino

1. Upright, somewhat outwardly arching and symmetrical plant habit.
2. Glossy dark green leaves with undulate leaf margins.
3. Rapid growth rate.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. White-colored spathes that are positioned well above the foliage on erect peduncles.
6. Good postproduction longevity.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned and controlled
breeding program conducted by the Inventors in Apopka,
Fla. The objective of the breeding program is to create new
Spathiphyllum cultivars with improved plant habit, dark
green foliage and rapid growth rate.

Plants of the new Spathiphyllum differed from plants of
the female parent, the cultivar Sparkle, when grown in
side-by-side comparisons in Apopka, Fla., in the following
characteristics:

The new cultivar originated from a cross-pollination made
by the Inventors on Feb. 9, 1998 of the Spathiphyllum
hybrid cultivar Sparkle, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
8,367, as the female or seed parent and the Spathiphyllum
hybrid cultivar 31581, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
10,893, as the male or pollen parent. The cultivar Valentino
was discovered and selected by the Inventors as a plant
within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a
controlled environment in Homestead, Fla., on Sep. 23,
1999.

1. Plants of the new Spathiphyllum were smaller than plants of the cultivar Sparkle.
2. Plants of the new Spathiphyllum were more freely clumping than plants of the cultivar Sparkle.
3. Spathes of plants of the new Spathiphyllum were smaller than spathes of plants of the cultivar Sparkle.
4. Spathes of plants of the new Spathiphyllum were ovate in shape whereas spathes of plants of the cultivar Sparkle were elliptic in shape.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar by tissue culture
since September, 1999, in a laboratory in Sebring, Fla., has
shown that the unique features of this new Spathiphyllum
plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations of asexual propagation.

Plants of the new Spathiphyllum differed from plants of
the male parent, the cultivar 31581, when grown in side-
by-side comparisons in Apopka, Fla., in the following char-
acteristics:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new Spathiphyllum has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture and light intensity, without, however, any variance in
genotype.

1. Plants of the new Spathiphyllum grew faster than plants of the cultivar 31581;
2. Plants of the new Spathiphyllum were more freely flowering than plants of the cultivar 31581.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Valen-

Plants of the new Spathiphyllum can be compared to
plants of the Spathiphyllum cultivar Petite, not patented. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Apopka, Fla., plants
of the new Spathiphyllum differed from plants of the cultivar
Petite in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were darker green in color and glossier than leaves of plants of the cultivar *Petite*.

2. Leaves of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* had more acute apices than leaves of plants of the cultivar *Petite*.

3. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* tolerated high temperatures better than plants of the cultivar *Petite*.

Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* can also be compared to plants of the *Spathiphyllum* cultivar *Claudia*, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,547. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Apopka, Fla., plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* differed from plants of the cultivar *Claudia* in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were smaller than plants of the cultivar *Claudia*.

2. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were more freely clumping than plants of the cultivar *Claudia*.

3. Leaves of plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* were smaller, more narrow and glossier than leaves of plants of the cultivar *Claudia*.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate 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 photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Spathiphyllum*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical 15-month old plant of 'Valentino' grown in a 20-cm container.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a close-up view of typical inflorescences of 'Valentino'.

The photograph on the third sheet comprises a close-up view of the upper leaf surface of a typical plant of 'Valentino'.

The photograph on the fourth sheet comprises a close-up view of the lower leaf surface of a typical plant of 'Valentino'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and comparisons describe 15-month old plants (from planting rooted tissue-cultured plantlets) grown during the winter and spring in Homestead, Fla., in a polypropylene-covered shadehouse and under commercial production conditions in 20-cm containers. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 70 to 90° F., night temperatures ranged from 65 to 75° F., and light levels were about 1,500 to 2,000 foot-candles.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar *Valentino*.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar *Sparkle*, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,367.

Male parent.—*Spathiphyllum* hybrid cultivar 31581, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,893.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue culture.

Time to initiate roots on a tissue-cultured cutting.—

Summer: About 6 to 8 days at 70 to 90° F. day temperature and 65 to 75° F. night temperature.

Winter: About 7 to 10 days at 70 to 90° F. day temperature and 65 to 75° F. night temperature.

Time to produce a fully-rooted tissue-cultured plantlet.—Summer: About 70 days at 70 to 90° F. day temperature and 65 to 75° F. night temperature.

Winter: About 84 days at 70 to 90° F. day temperature and 65 to 75° F. night temperature.

Root description.—Thick, fleshy; lateral branch roots, fine; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant shape.—Upright, somewhat outwardly arching and symmetrical plant habit; small to intermediate in stature.

Growth habit.—Erect when young, becoming somewhat outwardly arching as leaves develop. Freely clumping and full appearance; about 16 clumps per plant. Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* are typically grown in 15 to 20-cm containers.

Plant height.—About 30 to 36 cm from soil level to top of leaf plane and about 49 to 62 cm from soil level to spathe apices.

Plant spread.—About 70 to 75 cm.

Growth rate.—Rapid growth rate; from tissue-cultured plantlets, about 7 to 8 months are required to produce finished flowering plants in 15-cm containers.

Foliage description.—Length: About 20 to 26 cm. Width: About 7.5 to 9 cm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Elongated acuminate. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire; moderately undulate. Aspect: Initially upright, then somewhat outwardly arching; curved downward at apex. Surface: Rugose; midrib sunken on upper surface and prominent on lower surface. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Leathery, smooth, glabrous, durable and flexible. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Darker and more green than, but closest to 137A; glossy. Young and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 137C; dull. Midrib, upper surface: 137A. Midrib, lower surface: 146C. Petiole: Length: About 20 to 23 cm. Diameter, just below the geniculum: About 3.5 to 4 cm. Petiole sheath, length: About 15 to 17 cm; about 1 to 2 cm between the petiole sheath apex and the base of the geniculum. Petiole sheath, diameter: About 7 mm. Petiole sheath, apex: Rounded. Geniculum length: About 1.8 to 3.5 cm. Geniculum diameter: About 4 mm. Geniculum aspect: Straight to curved. Color: Petiole and sheath: Darker than, but closest to 137A. Geniculum: 137A to 137B.

Inflorescence description:

Inflorescence arrangement/quantity.—Concave spathes with spadices held above the foliage on erect peduncles. Freely flowering; typically about 15 developing and open spathes per plant at one time; inflorescences arise from the petiole sheath.

Time to flower.—Inflorescences are initiated in the late winter and early spring in Homestead, Fla.

Inflorescence longevity.—Spathes generally maintain white color for about four weeks on the plant. As cut flowers, spathes maintain good substance for about seven days.

Fragrance.—Slightly fragrant, sweet, typical of *Spathiphyllum*.

Inflorescence buds—Length: About 8 to 9 cm. Diameter: About 7 to 9 mm. Shape: Spindle-shaped. Color: 155A; venation, 144D; towards the apex, 137C to 137D.

Spathe.—Length: About 10 to 12 cm. Width: About 4.8 to 6 cm. Depth: About 1.3 cm. Shape: Ovate to elliptic. Apex: Acuminate; twisted. Base: Cuneate. Aspect: Concave, curling over the spadix. Color Front surface: More white than, but closest to 155D; midrib, 155D tinged with 191B. Back surface: More white than, but closest to 155D; midrib, 144A to 146B; apex, 155D tinged with 144A. Front surface with subsequent development: 145C to 146D; midrib, 146B to 146C; apex, 145C to 146A. Back surface with subsequent development: 145A to 145C; midrib, 137A to 146B; apex, 145C to 146A.

Spadix.—Length: About 3.2 to 4.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Color: 158C gradually becoming closer to 146C with development. Quantity of flowers: More than 200 per spadix. Pistillate flowers extend about 1.5 mm beyond the staminate flowers.

Pollen: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 155D. Pistils: Conical; close to 155D in color.

Peduncle.—Length: About 39 to 52 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 to 4.5 mm. Color: Darker than, but closest to 137A.

Fruit.—Type: Berry. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Oblong to elliptic. Color: Darker than, but closest to 147A; with subsequent development, tinged with 19B to 19C.

Seed.—Quantity per fruit: About one to six. Quantity per inflorescence: About 150. Length: About 2 mm. Shape: Reniform. Color: Light brown.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Spathiphyllum*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Spathiphyllum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 45 to 104° F.

It is claimed:

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

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