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(54) **VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'LAN ROSE'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A verbena cultivar particularly distinguished by rose colored flowers, vigorous growth and semi-trailing habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

GENUS AND SPECIES

Verbena hybrida.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

'Lan Rose'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of verbena, botanically known as *Verbena hybrida,* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Lan Rose'. The new cultivar is asexually reproduced from vegetative cuttings and tissue culture resulting from the cross of the seed/pod parent 98-684-2, an unnamed and unpatented red proprietary line and the pollen parent Temari Burgundy (PPAF), a commercial, unpatented line.

'Lan Rose' is a product of a planned breeding program intended to create new verbena cultivars with rose colored flowers, dark green foliage, vigorous growth and semi-trailing habit.

The new cultivar was created in 1999 in Gilroy, Calif. and has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings and tissue culture in Gilroy, Calif. over a two year period. It has also been trialed at Gilroy, Calif.; Alberta, Canada, Litchfield, Mich. and Andijk, The Netherlands. The present invention has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations; and this novelty is firmly fixed.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH

This new verbena plant is illustrated by the accompanying photograph which shows blooms, buds, and foliage of the plant in full color, the colors shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

The drawing shows overall plant habit and the mature inflorescence.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of 'Lan Rose'. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Alberta Canada. The plant history was taken on 11 week old plants grown in 4 inch pots, blossomed

under, natural light in a greenhouse and color readings were taken in the greenhouse in Alberta Canada. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.).

THE PLANT

Classification:
Botanical.—Verbena hybrida.
Commercial.—Verbena.
Form: Low trailing annual, decumbent.
Growth and branching habit: Vigorous growing, dense basal branching; low trailing habit.
Height: From soil level to top of blooms: Approximately 8 cm.
Width: Approximately 55 cm.
Time to produce a finished flowering plant: 11 weeks.
Outdoor plant performance: Typical bedding plant culture, full sun in the garden, hanging baskets or container plants.
Time to initiate roots: Approximately 4 days in the greenhouse.
Time to develop roots: Approximately 7 days in the greenhouse.
Root description: Fibrous, fleshy, white.

THE LEAVES

Length: 2.8–4.5 cm.
Width: 2.5–3.1 cm.
Leaf blade shape: Ovate to broadly ovate; irregular shallow lobing near base.
Leaf margin: Irregular, crenately incised.
Apex aspect: Obtuse.
Base aspect: Truncate.
Foliage color: Upper surface — Yellow-green RHS 147A; Lower surface is yellow-green RHS 147B.
Texture: Moderately hairy.
Venation: Pinnatifid, pubescent.
Venation color: Upper surface is yellow-green RHS 147A; lower surface is yellow-green RHS 147B.
Petiole length: 5 mm.
Petiole diameter: 2.2 mm.
Petiole color: Upper surface is yellow-green RHS 147A; lower surface is yellow-green RHS 144B.

THE STEM

Length: 12–28 cm.
Diameter: 2.0–3.0 mm.
Internode length: 2.3–4.0 cm.
Color: Upper surface is yellow-green RHS 146B; lower surface is yellow-green RHS 144A.
Texture: Moderately hairy.

THE BUD

Shape: Linear.
Diameter: 2 mm.
Length: 13 mm.
Color at tight bud: Red RHS 53B.

THE FLOWER

Blooming habit: Continuous throughout the growing season.
Inflorescence type: Spike.
Spikes per plant: 20–30.
Spike diameter: Approximately 5.3 cm.
Spike depth: Approximately 3.0 cm.
Peduncle length: 2.5–6.8 cm.
Peduncle diameter: 2 mm.
Peduncle color: Yellow-green RHS 146A.
Peduncle texture: Moderately pubescent.
Flower color: Upper petal surface is rose RHS N66A with red tones; Lower petal surface is rose that is between RHS 66B and 67B.
Floret form: Salverform; sessile on spikes.
Floret (limb) diameter: Approximately 18.7 mm.
Corolla tube length: Approximately 19 mm.
Number florets per spike: 25–35 (closed to fully open florets).
Number of petals: Gamopetalous, five lobed.
Petal size:
Length of one lobe.—9 mm.
Width of one lobe.—9 mm.
Petal lobe shape: Obcordate.
Petal apex shape: Deeply emarginate.
Petal base shape: Fused.
Petal margin: Entire.
Petal texture: Smooth with fine pubescence.
Sepals: Five sepals whose margins are fused to each other along their length with a transparent membrane of less than 1 mm in width with one smaller sepal (4 mm) attached to the base of the calyx.
Calyx length: Approximately 13 mm.
Calyx width: Approximately 5 mm.

Calyx shape: Linear.
Calyx apex: Acute.
Calyx color: Yellow-green RHS 146A.
Lastingness of individual blooms: One week.
Fragrance: None.

THE REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens: Anthers and filaments fused to upper half of corolla tube; four anthers with two pollen sacs per anther.
Pollen amount and color: Moderate, yellow RHS 5D.
Pistil: One style approximately 15 mm; transparent to yellow RHS 1C-1D throughout length with yellow-green RHS 144C near tip, slightly curved at the tip with one stigma yellow-green RHS 147C.
Fruit seed set: Does not freely set seed but can produce 4 narrow nutlets, approximately 4 mm long; colored grey-brown RHS 199D and enclosed in the dried calyx.

DISEASE AND INSECT RESISTANCE

Tolerant to mildew

COMPARISON WITH KNOWN CULTIVARS

When the instant plant is compared to 'Temari Bright Pink' (PPAF) the 'Lan Rose' leaf length is longer than 'Temari Bright Pink'. 'Lan Rose' has a greater flower density than 'Temari Bright Pink'. Additionally, the flower diameter 'Lan Rose' is a little less than that of 'Temari Bright Pink'.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL CULTIVARS

When the instant plant is compared to the male parent 'Temari Burgundy' (PPAF) the 'Lan Rose' has a rose flower color and 'Termari Burgundy' has a burgundy flower color. 'Lan Rose' has more vegetative growth in the center of the plant than does 'Termari Burgundy'. 'Lan Rose' is also earlier to flower than 'Temari Burgundy'.

When 'Lan Rose' is compared to the female parent '98-684-2', 'Lan Rose' has a rose flower color and 98-684-2 has a red flower. 'Lan Rose' has more trailing plant habit than 98-684-2 and is more mildew tolerant than '98-684-2'.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of verbena as shown and described herein.

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