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**(12) United States Plant Patent
Westhoff****(10) Patent No.: US PP14,192 P2****(45) Date of Patent: Sep. 30, 2003****(54) VARIETY OF SUTERA PLANT NAMED
'WESBABLUE'****(50) Latin Name: *Sutera cordata*
Varietal Denomination: 'Wesbablu'****(75) Inventor: Heinrich Westhoff, Fresenhorst 22-24,
46354 Südlohn/Oeding (DE)****(73) Assignees: Heinrich Westhoff (DE); Josef
Westhoff (DE)****(*) 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.: 10/341,703****(22) Filed: Jan. 14, 2003****(51) Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00****(52) U.S. Cl. Plt./263****(58) Field of Search Plt./263***Primary Examiner*—Kent Bell*(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon
Orkin & Hanson, P.C.**(57) ABSTRACT**A new and distinct early flowering *Sutera* plant with intense
violet-blue colored flowers and vigorous growth.**2 Drawing Sheets****1**Botanical classification: *Sutera cordata*.
Varietal denomination: 'Wesbablu'.**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-
tivar of *Sutera* plant known by the varietal name 'Wesbab-
lu'. The new variety was discovered in 2001 in a selected
breeding program in Südlohn, Germany designed to produce
a new compact and rich blooming blue *Sutera* variety. The
new variety was selected from a cross of proprietary unpat-
ented breeding plants *Bacopa* 00FA56 (female parent) and
Bacopa 00FA021 (male parent). The new variety has shorter
internodes, larger flowers, and a more spherical plant shape
than the female parent but with similar leaves and flower
color. Compared to the male parent, the new variety has
shorter internodes, smaller flowers, larger leaves, and more
branching but with similar flower color.

The new variety was first asexually reproduced in 2001 by
cuttings in Südlohn, Germany. The new variety has been
trial and field tested at Südlohn and has been found to retain
its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type through
successive propagations.

The following traits in combination distinguish 'Wesbab-
lu' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Rich blooming plant, covered in flowers.
2. Attractive light violet-blue flowers.
3. Symmetrical growth, short internodes.
4. Cascading but rounded plant habit.
5. Plants have a good appearance from a distance.
6. Dark green leaves.
7. Short peduncles.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the
new variety, with the color being as nearly true as is possible
with color illustrations of this type.

FIG. 1 is a photograph of the plant; and

FIG. 2 is a close up view of the blooms of the new plant.

2**DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT**

The following detailed description sets forth characteris-
tics of the new cultivar. The data which defines these
characteristics were collected by asexual reproductions by
cuttings carried out in Südlohn, Germany. Flowering plants
were produced in 12–15 weeks without growth retardants
and were grown in 12 cm containers with pinching 3–4
weeks after potting. Plants for the description were 20 weeks
old, grown in a greenhouse at 20–25° C. daytime tempera-
ture and at 16–18° C. night temperature with light levels of
3,000–50,000 lux. The color readings were taken on a plant
outdoors and in a greenhouse under natural light. Color
references are primarily to The 2001 R.H.S. Colour Chart of
The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Compared to 'Wesbavio' (Copending U.S. Plant patent
application No. 10/037,717) the new variety has shorter
internodes, shorter branches, larger leaves, shorter flower
tubes, larger sepals, and short peduncles. Compared to the
unpatented variety 'Seamist', the new variety is shorter and
more compact with shorter internodes, larger flowers, larger
sepals, and a more intense flower color.

PLANT

Form: Hanging with a compact, spherical shape.
Size: 11 cm from soil to top of flowers; 40 cm wide.

Roots:

Habit.—Fine; fibrous; well-branched.

Time to initiate roots.—About 14–16 days at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner.—About
24–28 days at 20° C.

Main stem: 40 cm long; 2.2 mm diameter; colored 146B
with some reddish anthocyanin; very short dense pubes-
cence.

Branching habit: Generally 1 branch per node with pinching.
Lateral branches:

Texture.—Pubescent (very short, dense hairs).

Diameter.—1.1 mm.

Length.—16–20 cm.

Internode length.—1.4 cm.

Quantity.—1–2 per node.

Color.—146B.

Foliage:

- Arrangement.*—Opposite.
Size of leaf.—Length: 1.6–1.7 cm. Width: 1.1–1.2 cm.
Shape of leaf.—Ovate to round.
Shape of apex.—Acute.
Shape of base.—Attenuate.
Texture.—Smooth.
Pubescence.—Very little; very fine.
Aspect.—Flat.
Margin.—Dentate.
Color.—Young leaves: Upper surface: 146A. Lower surface: 146B. Mature leaves: Upper surface: 147A. Lower surface: 147B.
Petioles.—Length: 3.1 mm. Diameter: 1 mm. Color: 147B.
Venation.—Pinnate; color same as mature leaves.

FLOWER

- Natural flowering season: Spring through autumn; tolerates temperature between 4° to 30° C.
 Flower type and habit: Single, salverform, persistent; abundant.
 Fragrance: None.
 Flower size:
Length.—0.71 cm.
Width.—1.45 cm.
Tube length.—0.65 cm.
Tube diameter.—0.1 cm at base; 0.35 cm at top.
 Corolla:
Aspect.—Almost flat.
Petal length from throat.—6 mm.
Petal width.—5.3 mm.
Petal quantity.—5, fused.
Petal shape.—Broad; slightly angular.
Petal apex.—Obtuse.
Petal margin.—Entire.
Appearance.—Dull.
Color.—Petals: When opening: Upper surface: 90C. Lower surface: N82D and 84D. Fully opened: Upper surface: Varying between 90C and 90D and N87A and N87C, changing to 90C over time. Lower surface: N87C and 85C. Flower throat inside surface: 25A with ring between 150C and 150D. Flower eye: 25A. Flower tube: Outside: Top: 92D. Middle: 23A. Base: 150C. Veins: Not veined.

Calyx:

- Arrangement.*—Whorled.

Sepals:

- Shape.*—Linear.
Width.—1 mm.
Length.—5.3 mm.
Margin.—Entire.
Apex.—Acute.
Texture.—Pubescent.
Appearance.—Dull.
Color.—Upper surface: 146B, varying with 137C to 137B. Lower surface: 137B.

Bud:

- Shape.*—Oblanceolate.
Length.—6.9 cm.
Diameter.—3.5 mm.
Color.—Tip: 85B. Middle: Between 12B and 12C. Base: 150C.

Peduncle:

- Length.*—0.6 cm.
Diameter.—0.75 mm.
Color.—146B.
Orientation.—Acute angle.
Strength.—Flexible.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens:

- Quantity.*—4; on two plains (2 high, 2 low); fused with petals.
Anthers.—Shape: Flat, reniform. Length: 0.8 mm. Width: 1.5 mm. Color: 21A.
Pollen.—Color: 21A. Amount: Moderate.

Pistil:

- Quantity.*—1.
Length.—0.85 cm.
Style.—Length: 5.5 mm. Color: 150C.
Stigma.—Shape: Long; curved inwardly. Color: 144A. Ovary color: 144B.

Seeds: Generally none.

Disease/pest resistance: No susceptibility to diseases or pests has been noted to date.

Garden performance: Plant tolerates rain and wind.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Sutera* plant substantially as shown and described.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2