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

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(54) **COLEUS PLANT NAMED ‘MOLTEN LAVA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Coleus*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Molten Lava**

(76) Inventor: **Ralph Repp**, 423 Country Rd.,
Waynesville, NC (US) 28785

(*) 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.: **10/291,023**

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(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./373**
(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./373**

Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell
Assistant Examiner—A Para
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Coleus plant named ‘Molten
Lava’, characterized by its upright and tall plant habit; and
dark purple and dark red bi-colored leaves.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Coleus*×*hy-*
brida cultivar Molten Lava.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of Coleus plant, botanically known as *Solenostemon*
scutellarioides, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name Molten Lava.

The new cultivar was discovered by the Inventor in a
controlled environment in Waynesville, N.C. as a naturally-
occurring branch mutation of a the *Solenostemon scutellari-*
oides cultivar Eclipse, not patented. The new Coleus was
observed within a population of plants of the cultivar Eclipse
in June, 2000. This branch mutation was selected on the
basis of its unique leaf coloration.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal
cuttings taken in Waynesville, N.C. since June, 2000, has
shown that the unique features of this new Coleus are stable
and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Molten Lava have not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature and light intensity without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Molten
Lava’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘Molten Lava’ as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Upright and tall plant habit.
2. Dark purple and dark red bi-colored leaves.

Plants of the new Coleus are most similar to plants of the
parent, the cultivar Eclipse. Plants of the new Coleus differ
from plants of the parent selection primarily in foliage color
as plants of the cultivar Eclipse have red, pink, green and
yellow-colored leaves. In addition, plants of the new Coleus
are taller than plants of the cultivar Eclipse.

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 repro-

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ductions 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
Coleus.

5 The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of typical plant of ‘Molten Lava’ grown in
a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a
close-up view of typical leaves of ‘Molten Lava’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

15 The cultivar Molten Lava 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.

20 The aforementioned photographs, following observations
and measurements describe plants grown during the winter
and spring in Encinitas, Calif., in an outdoor nursery and
under conditions which approximate commercial production
cultural and environmental conditions. Plants were about 14
weeks from cuttings and were grown in one-gallon contain-
ers. During the production of the plants, day temperatures
25 averaged 24° C. and night temperatures averaged 19° C.

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

30 Botanical classification: *Solenostemon scutellarioides* culti-
var Molten Lava.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring branch mutation of the *Sole-*
nostemon scutellarioides cultivar Eclipse, not patented.

35 Propagation:
Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.
Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 7 days at 20° C.
Winter: About 9 days at 20° C.
Time to develop roots.—Summer: About 18 days at 20°
40 C. Winter: About 20 days at 20° C.
Root description.—Fine, fibrous, white in color.
Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:
Form.—Annual flowering plant; upright and tall. Mod-
erate growth rate.

Plant height.—About 50 cm.
Plant diameter.—About 44 cm.
Branching habit.—Freely branching with potentially two lateral branches forming at every node.
Lateral branches.—Length: About 47 cm. Diameter: About 1.7 cm. Internode length: About 4 cm. Shape, in cross-section: Squarish. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 59A.
Foliage description.—Arrangement: Opposite; simple. Length: About 7.5 cm. Width: About 4 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate to truncate. Margin: Crenate, scalloped; ruffled. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; velvety. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Close to 183A. Young foliage, lower surface: 183D. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Center,

darker than 183A to close to 187A; towards the margin, 185A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 185A. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 185B. Petiole length: About 2.8 mm. Petiole diameter: About 3 mm. Petiole color: 199A.
Flower description: Flower development has not been observed.
Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Coleus have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to Coleus.
Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Coleus have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 2 to 35° C.
It is claimed:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of Coleus plant named ‘Molten Lava’, as illustrated and described.
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