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

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(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'WESPEAL'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Wespeal**

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(58) **Field of Search** Plt./356

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Petunia plant named 'Wespeal', characterized by its cascading plant habit; freely branching habit; short internodes, dense and bushy growth habit; freely flowering habit; and double salverform light violet-colored flowers with contrasting dark purple-colored venation.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Petunia×hybrida* cultivar Wespeal.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Petunia plant, botanically known as *Petunia×hybrida,* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Wespeal'.

The new Petunia is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany. The new Petunia originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor of a proprietary Petunia selection identified as 98 M 079, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary Petunia selection identified as 98 P 77, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Petunia was selected by the Inventor in 2000 in a controlled environment in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany since 2001, has shown that the unique features of this new Petunia are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Wespeal 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 variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Wespeal'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Wespeal' as a new and distinct Petunia cultivar:

1. Cascading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Short internodes, dense and bushy growth habit.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Double salverform light violet-colored flowers with contrasting dark purple-colored venation.

Plants of the new Petunia have larger flowers than plants of the female parent, the selection 98 M 079. In addition, plants of the female selection have single flowers. Plants of

the new Petunia have smaller flowers and darker green-colored leaves than plants of the male parent, the selection 98 P 77.

Plants of the cultivar Wespeal can be compared to plants of the Petunia cultivar Wespemari, not patented. However in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany, plants of the new Petunia and the cultivar Wespemari differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Petunia had shorter internodes than plants of the cultivar Wespemari.
2. Plants of the new Petunia had darker green-colored and smaller leaves than plants of the cultivar Wespemari.
3. Plants of the new Petunia had smaller flowers than plants of the cultivar Wespemari.
4. Plants of the new Petunia had darker green-colored and smaller sepals than plants of the cultivar Wespemari.
5. Flowers of plants of the new Petunia were double whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar Wespemari were single.

Plants of the cultivar Wespeal can also be compared to plants of the Petunia cultivar Kerpril, disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 09/399,874. However in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany, plants of the new Petunia and the cultivar Kerpril differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Petunia were shorter than plants of the cultivar Kerpril.
2. Plants of the new Petunia had smaller flowers than plants of the cultivar Kerpril.
3. Plants of the new Petunia had darker green-colored and smaller sepals than plants of the cultivar Kerpril.
4. Flowers of plants of the new Petunia were not fragrant whereas flowers of plants of the cultivar Kerpril were fragrant.

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 Petunia.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Wespeal'.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of a typical flower and leaves of 'Wespeal'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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. Plants used for the aforementioned photographs and the description were grown in 12-cm containers during the spring and summer for about 20 weeks in a glass-covered greenhouse and under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany. During the production of the plants, day temperatures were about 20 to 25° C., night temperatures were about 16 to 18° C. and light levels ranged from 3,000 to 50,000 lux.

Botanical classification: *Petunia×hybrida* cultivar Wespeal.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* selection identified as 98 M 079, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* selection identified as 98 P 77, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 18 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots.—About 20 to 28 days at 20° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fine, fibrous and well-branched.

Plant description:

Form.—Annual flowering plant; initially upright, then cascading. Viscid, glandular pubescent. Freely continuous basal branching with lateral branches potentially forming at every node.

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

Plant height (from soil level to top of plant plane).—About 16.7 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 28 cm.

Stem description.—Main branches, length: About 45 to 60 cm. Main branches, diameter: About 4.7 mm. Lateral branches, length: About 35 cm. Lateral branches, diameter: About 2.8 mm. Internode length: About 2.5 cm. Texture: Densely pubescence. Color: 144A to 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Before flowering, alternate; after flowering, opposite; simple. Length: About 5 cm. Width: About 3.6 cm. Shape: Ovate to rounded. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Flat. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Young and mature foliage, upper surface: 147A. Young and mature foliage, lower surface: 147B. Venation, upper surface: 147C to 147D. Venation, lower surface: 147D. Petiole length: About 1.2 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2.7 mm. Petiole color: 147C.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Double salverform flowers; flowers face upward and outward; single, axillary. Flowers persistent. Freely flowering.

Natural flowering season.—Long day responsive; flowering from April until frost in the autumn in Germany; flowering continuous during this period.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About one week.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 5.8 cm. Depth (height): About 4.5 cm. Tube length: About 2.7 cm. Throat diameter, distal end: About 1.2 cm. Tube diameter, proximal end: About 4 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 3.2 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Oblong. Color, towards apex: 145C; venation, 166A to 79B. Color, midsection and base: 79D; venation, 166A.

Petals.—Arrangement/appearance: Two whorls of five petals each, fused into flared trumpet. Length from throat, outer whorl: About 2.5 cm. Length from throat, inner whorl: About 1.65 to 2 cm. Width, outer whorl: About 2.5 cm. Width, inner whorl: About 2.1 to 2.7 cm. Shape: Roughly spatulate. Apex: Cuspidate. Margin: Entire, undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 85C. When opening, lower surface: 85D. Fully opened, upper surface: 85C to 85D; color does not fade with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 85A. Flower throat (inside): 79D. Flower tube (outside): 79D. Venation, upper surface: 79A to 79B. Venation, lower surface: 79B to 166A. Venation, throat: 79A. Venation, tube: 166A.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals, fused at base; star-shaped. Length: About 1.6 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Linear. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; leathery. Color, upper surface: 147A. Color, lower surface: 147B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2.3 cm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Flexible and wiry. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A; towards the flower, 166A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: About 5 to 15 per flower. Anther shape: Four-parted, reniform. Anther length: About 3 mm. Anther width: About 3 mm. Anther color: 85D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 94D. Pistils: Quantity: One or two per flower; deformed, variable in shape and size. Stigma color, immature: 137A. Stigma color, mature: 147A. Seed/fruit: Seed and fruit production have not been observed.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Petunia have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures from 2 to 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Petunia plant named 'Wespeal', as illustrated and described.

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