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Pierce

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED 'CAL PINK'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Calibrachoa spp.***
Varietal Denomination: **Cal Pink**

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(58) **Field of Search** Plt./263

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

'Cal Pink' is a new variety of Calibrachoa plant. This new variety has white colored flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

Genus and species: Calibrachoa spp.
Variety denomination: 'Cal Pink'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

'Cal Pink' originated from a hybridization made in the year 2000 in Gilroy, Calif. The female parent was a Calibrachoa breeding line known as 38-1, a pink proprietary line that is unnamed and unpatented. The male parent was Calibrachoa variety 77-4, a pink-magenta proprietary line that is unnamed and unpatented.

'Cal Pink' is a product of a planned breeding program intended to create new calibrachoa plants with rose-colored flowers, compact habit, good basal branching and moderately vigorous growth.

The new cultivar was created in 2000 in Gilroy, Calif. and has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings and tissue culture in Gilroy, Calif., Andijk, The Netherlands, and Guatemala over a two-year period. The plant has also been trialed at Gilroy, Calif., 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 THE GENUS CALIBRACHOA LLAVE & LEX

The genus Petunia was originally established in 1803 by A. L. Jussieu, who described both *P. parviflora* and *P. nyctaginifloa* as type species. Using a non-horticultural system that selected the first mentioned species as the type species (lectotype), N. L. Britton and H. A. Brown declared *P. parviflora* as the type species for Petunia in 1913.

During the 1980's and 1990, H. J. Wijsman published a series of articles regarding the ancestry of P. hybrida, the Garden Petunia, and the inter-relationship of several species classified as Petunia. These studies discovered that P. hybrida and its ancestrial species, *P. nyctaginiflora* (=*P. axillaris*) and *P. violacea* (=*P. integrifolia*), possessed 14 pairs of chromosomes while several other species, including *P. parviflora*, possessed 18 pairs of chromosomes. Since *P. parviflora* was the lectotype species for the Petunia genus, Wijsman and J. H. de Jong proposed transferring the 14 chromosome species to the genus Stimoryne. Horticulturists

opposed reclassifying the Garden Petunia and in 1986, Wijsman proposed the alternative of making *P. nyctaginiflora* the lectotype species for Petunia and transferring the 18 chromosome species to another genus. The I. N. G. Committee adopted this proposal. By 1990 Wijsman had transferred several species, including *P. parviflora* (=*C. parviflora*) to Calibrachoa, originally established by LLave and Lexarza in 1825. *Calibrachoa parviflora* (=*C. mexicana* LLave & Lexarza) is now the type species for the genus Calibrachoa.

Classification of the current Petunia and Calibrachoa species is still in progress. New species are also being identified. Consequently a proper description has not been written for the Calibrachoa genus. Calibrachoa can, however, be distinguished from Petunia based on the higher chromosome number, chromosome morphology, plant branching habit and type of flower bud aestivation. Whereas Petunia species bear a flower peduncle and one new stem from a node, Calibrachoa bear a flower peduncle and three stems. Petunia species have a cochlear corolla bud, a single outermost petal covers the other four, radially folded and terminally contorted petals. Calibrachoa flower buds are flat with all five petals linearly folded and the two lower petals forming a cover around the three other petals and fused together.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following traits and characteristics describe the new variety. The plant history was taken on 9 month old plants that were cut back numerous times prior to data readings being taken.

Classification:
Family.—Solanaceae.
Species.—Calibrachoa spp.
Growth:
Form.—Semi upright and decumbent.
Habit.—Good vigorous habit, well branched, full plant.
Height.—10–20 cm.
Width.—50–60 cm.
Time to produce a finished flowering plant.—9–11weeks.

Outdoors plant performance.—Full sun, free flowering though the summer, some heat tolerance, used as a hanging plant; in mixed container plantings; mass planting in a bed.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—18–23 days.

Root description.—White, fibrous.

Stems:

Stem color.—R.H.S. 146C (yellow-green).

Stem length.—55–60 cm.

Stem diameter.—0.25–0.3 cm.

Stem internodes length.—0.3–0.9 cm.

Stem texture.—Many glandular hairs of various sizes.

Stem anthocyanin.—No.

Pedicel color.—RHS 144A (yellow-green).

Pedicel length.—2.0–2.3 cm.

Pedicel diameter.—0.1 cm.

Pedicel texture.—Many glandular hairs of various sizes.

Pedicel anthocyanin.—Yes, in irregular size blotches at the ovary end.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate; upper leaves sub-opposite.

Leaf color.—Upper side, RHS 137A (green) but a little darker. Underside, RHS 138A (greyed-green) but a little greyer.

Leaf length.—3.0–3.2 cm.

Leaf width.—0.7–0.9 cm.

Leaf blade shape.—Oblong/Elliptic.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Leaf apex aspect.—Obtuse.

Leaf base aspect.—Acuminate.

Leaf texture.—Glandular hairs of various sizes.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Venation color.—RHS 144A (yellow-green).

Petiole color.—RHS 144A (yellow-green).

Petiole length.—0.3–0.4 cm.

Petiole width.—0.2 cm.

Petiole texture.—Many glandular hairs of various sizes.

Bud:

Color at tight bud.—RHS 4B (yellow).

Bud shape.—Oblong.

Bud diameter.—0.4 cm.

Bud length.—1.7–2.0 cm.

Flowers:

Blooming habit.—Continuous throughout the growing season. Good floriferousness.

Inflorescence type.—Flowers solitary in upper leaf axis.

Floret type.—Funnel form, 5 lobed petals, fused at base.

Young flower color.—RHS 64C (red-purple) but lighter base color; RHS 60A (red-purple) mid-veins; RHS 60C (red-purple) but lighter secondary veins.

Young flower floret diameter.—2.6–2.8 cm.

Mature flower color.—Front side, Between RHS 64D (red-purple) and RHS 67D (red purple) base color; subdues RHS 60A (red-purple) mid-veins; subdued RHS 60D (red-purple) secondary veins.

Mature flower color.—Underside, RHS 62C (red-purple) with a overlay hue of peach, close to RHS 37C (red); RHS 166A (greyed-orange) mid-veins.

Corolla tube color inside.—RHS 9A (yellow); light RHS 197A (greyed-green) veining.

Corolla tube length.—1.5–1.8 cm.

Corolla outside texture.—Glandular hairs various sizes.

Flower (limb) diameter.—3.0–3.2 cm.

Petal apex shape.—Retuse.

Petal base shape.—Fused.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Waviness of petals.—None.

Petal lobation.—Slightly moderate.

Petal texture.—Papillose.

Sepals.—5, fused at base.

Sepal color.—RHS 143A (green).

Sepal length.—1.0–1.3 cm.

Sepal width.—0.2–0.25 cm.

Sepal shape.—Oblong.

Sepal apex.—Acute/Obtuse.

Sepal texture.—Glandular hairs various sizes.

Lastingness of individual blooms.—4–8 days.

Fragrance.—None.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—5; 2 taller, 3 shorter.

Filament color.—RHS 149D (yellow-green).

Pollen color.—RHS 6B (yellow).

Pistil.—One.

Stigma color.—RHS 143C (green).

Style color.—RHS 149C (yellow-green).

Fruit seed set.—Not observed.

Disease and Insect Resistance

Not observed.

COMPARISON WITH MOST SIMILAR VARIETY

'Cal Pink' differs from the female parent 38-1 in the following ways: 'Cal Pink' has larger flowers, more prostrate habit and earlier to flower than 38-1.

'Cal Pink' differs from the male parent 77-4 in the following ways: 'Cal Pink' has smaller leaves, darker green leaves and more basal branching than 77-4.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct Calibrachoa plant as shown and described herein.

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