



US00PP14728P2

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP14,728 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Apr. 20, 2004**

(54) **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED ‘FISNICS PURPLE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Impatiens hawkeri*
Varietal Denomination: **Fisnics Purple**

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(*) 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.: **10/452,983**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 3, 2003**

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl. Plt./318**
(58) **Field of Search Plt./318**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named ‘Fisnics Purple’, characterized by its outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; medium growth habit; freely branching and freely flowering habit; large medium green-colored foliage; and large, rounded, red purple-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Fisnics Purple.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Fisnics Purple’.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany and Moncarapacho, Portugal. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new medium-sized Impatiens cultivars with an early to medium flowering response and large rounded flowers with attractive coloration.

The new Impatiens originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the summer of 1998 of the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Danharpl, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,094, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Kinoc, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,433, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Fisnics Purple was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Moncarapacho, Portugal in April, 1999.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in Moncarapacho, Portugal, since July, 1999, has shown that the unique features of this new Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; small to medium growth habit.
2. Freely branching and freely flowering habit.
3. Large medium green-colored foliage.
4. Large, rounded, red purple-colored flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

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Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the female parent, the cultivar Danharpl. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Danharpl in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were shorter than plants of the cultivar Danharpl.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had longer and lighter green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Danharpl.
3. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were flatter than flowers of plants of the cultivar Danharpl.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the male parent, the cultivar Kinoc. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Kinoc in the following characteristics:

1. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were more rounded than flowers of plants of the cultivar Kinoc.
2. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens and the cultivar Kinoc differed slightly in color.

Plants of the new Impatiens can also be compared to plants of the cultivar Papete, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,457. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Papete in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens had green-colored lateral branches whereas plants of the cultivar Papete had dark red-colored lateral branches.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had shorter, smoother (less rugose) and lighter green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Papete.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Papete.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-

ductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Impatiens. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Fisnics Purple' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Fisnics Purple has 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 aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Hillscheid, Germany, under commercial production practice in a glass-covered greenhouse. Rooted young plants were planted in 12-cm containers in late February and the aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements were taken about 11 weeks later in early May. During the production of the plants, day temperatures were about 18 to 22° C. and night temperatures were about 16 to 18° 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 significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Fisnics Purple.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Danharpl, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,094.

Male parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Kinoc, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,433.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 8 to 10 days at 24° C. Winter: About 12 to 15 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Summer: About 15 days at 24° C. Winter: About 18 to 20 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Numerous, fibrous, and freely branching; 158D to 179D in color.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant growth habit; small to medium growth habit; freely branching habit, dense and bushy appearance; freely flowering. Moderately vigorous.

Crop time.—From a rooted cutting, about 9 to 10 weeks are required to produce finished flowering plants in 12-cm containers.

Plant height.—About 14.5 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 38 to 43 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: About 7. Length: About 9 to 11 cm. Diameter: About 6 to 7 mm. Internode length: About 4 to 5 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 187B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Primarily in whorls. Length: About 14 to 15 cm. Width: About 5 to 5.5 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Serrulate with ciliation. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 137B. Developing foliage, lower sur-

face: 138B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 138B. Venation, upper surface: Towards the base, 53D; towards the apex, lighter than 53D. Venation, lower surface: 187C. Petiole: Length: About 1 to 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: 53C. Color, lower surface: 187C.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single, large, rounded, and red purple-colored flowers. Freely and continuously flowering; usually about 6 to 9 flowers and flower buds per lateral branch. Flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage; flowers typically face parallel to the leaf canopy. Petals not persistent; gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about 8 to 9 days on the plant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. Plants begin flowering about 9 weeks after planting.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 67A.

Flower length.—About 6.5 to 7 cm.

Flower width.—About 6.4 to 6.6 cm.

Flower depth.—About 1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: Five per flower, imbricate. Length, all petals: About 2.9 to 3.1 cm. Width: Banner petal: About 4.5 to 5 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 3.3 to 4.3 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Moderately lobed. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture: Smooth; velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: Between 66A and 74A. When opening, lower surface: 67A. Fully opened, upper surface: 74A; color becoming closer to 74B with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 74B.

Spur.—Quantity: One per flower. Length: About 5 to 5.5 cm. Diameter: At apex: About 0.5 mm. At flower: About 2 to 3 mm. Aspect: Curved. Color: 53B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 5 to 5.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, flexible. Color: 53A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, hooded; filaments free. Anther length: About 5 to 6 mm. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther color: Cream-colored with red purple-colored spot, 74C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 8D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 6 mm. Stigma color: 12D. Style color: 12D. Ovary: Five-celled. Ovary color: 143A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Impatiens have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Impatiens.

Low temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Impatiens have been observed to tolerate night temperatures of 5° C. with 10° C. day temperatures.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Fisnics Purple', as illustrated and described.

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