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

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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED**
'WESCAORA'

(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa sp.*
Varietal Denomination: **Wescaora**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant named 'Wescaora', characterized by its cascading and uniform growth habit; freely branching habit; medium-sized flowers; and numerous orange-colored flowers.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Calibrachoa sp.* cultivar *Wescaora*.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa sp.*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Wescaora'.

The new Calibrachoa is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany. The new Calibrachoa originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor of a proprietary selection of Calibrachoa identified as code number 97-254d, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of Calibrachoa identified as code number 97-013-5, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Calibrachoa was discovered and selected by the Inventor in 1998 in a controlled environment in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany as a single plant within the resulting progeny from the cross-pollination.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany since 1999, has shown that the unique features of this new Calibrachoa are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar *Wescaora* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and daylength without, however, any variance in genotype.

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

1. Cascading and uniform growth habit.
2. Freely branching habit, dense and bushy.
3. Medium-sized flowers.
4. Numerous orange-colored flowers.

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Plants of the cultivar *Wescaora* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany, plants of the new Calibrachoa differed from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Calibrachoa had more open flowers than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flower color of plants of the new Calibrachoa was more stable than flower color of plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new Calibrachoa and the female parent selection differed in flower color as plants of the female parent selection had lighter orange-colored flowers.

Plants of the cultivar *Wescaora* can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany, plants of the new Calibrachoa differed from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Calibrachoa had thicker stems than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new Calibrachoa had smaller leaves than plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new Calibrachoa and the female parent selection differed in flower color as plants of the female parent selection had orange red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new Calibrachoa can also be compared to plants of the Calibrachoa cultivar *Wescasun*, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,756. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Sudlohn-Oeding, Germany, plants of the new Calibrachoa differed from plants of the cultivar *Wescasun* in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Calibrachoa were more compact than plants of the cultivar *Wescasun*.
2. Plants of the new Calibrachoa had smaller flowers than plants of the cultivar *Wescasun*.
3. Flowers of plants of the new Calibrachoa and the cultivar *Wescasun* differed in coloration.

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 *Calibrachoa*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of typical flowering plants of 'Wescaora' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers and leaves of 'Wescaora'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Calibrachoa* sp. cultivar Wescaora.
Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as 97-254d, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as 97-013-5, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 18 to 20 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; cascading; uniform, rounded appearance, plants eventually become spherical in overall shape. Freely branching with lateral branches forming at every node. Vigorous growth habit.

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

Plant height (from soil level to top of plant plane).—About 15 cm.

Plant length (from soil level to lateral branches apices).—About 43 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 60 cm.

Stem description.—Main branches, length: About 40 cm. Main branches, diameter: About 2 mm. Lateral branches, length: About 12 to 18 cm. Lateral branches, diameter: About 1.2 mm. Internode length: About 1.4 to 1.7 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Strength: Strong, wiry. Color: 146C.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical and long persisting; sessile. Arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 3.1 to 4.2 cm. Width: About 1.4 to 1.7 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Obtuse to slightly acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire.

Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Venation: Pinnate; only midvein visible. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 146A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 146B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; midvein, 147B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; midvein, 147C.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Medium-sized flowers; flowers face upright or outward; single, axillary. Flowers not persistent. Freely flowering with flowers forming at every axil.

Natural flowering season.—Spring until frost in the autumn; flowering continuous.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About one week.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 2.6 cm. Depth (height): About 1.9 cm. Tube length: About 1.7 to 1.8 cm. Throat diameter, distal end: About 8 mm. Tube diameter, proximal end: About 2.1 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.1 to 2.2 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm. Shape: Oblong. Color: 14D overlain with 70B.

Corolla.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five petals, fused into flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1.2 cm. Petal width: About 1.3 cm. Petal shape: Obtuse with rounded apex. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture: Smooth, satiny. Color: Petal, upper surface, when opening and fully opened: 15A; overlain with 51A to 51B; venation, similar to lamina; color becoming closer to 164C overlain with 183A with development. Petal, lower surface, when opening and fully opened: 19B overlain with 48B; venation, 166A overlain with 48B. Flower throat (inside): 17A to 17B; venation, 166A to 166C. Flower tube (outside): 14C; venation, 166A to 166C.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals, star-shaped. Length: About 1.45 cm. Width: About 2.9 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 147B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 1.7 cm. Width: About 1 mm. Strength: Flexible, wiry. Color: 146C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Five. Anther shape: Four-parted, oval. Anther length: About 1.5 mm. Anther diameter: About 1.2 mm. Anther color: 12B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 15D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1.2 cm. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: 144B to 144A. Style length: About 1 mm. Style color: 144C. Ovary color: 144B to 144C.

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

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from 4 to 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named 'Wescaora', as illustrated and described.

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