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Hofmann

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

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

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(58) **Field of Search** Plt./318

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named ‘Fisnics Pastel’, characterized by its outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; medium to tall growth habit; freely branching and freely flowering habit; deep green-colored foliage; large, nearly round, white-colored flowers with a light red purple hue on the banner petals and near the petal margins with a small red purple-colored eye zone; and flowers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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

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 Pastel’.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany and Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain. 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 spring of 1999 of a proprietary seedling selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number K98-4069-25, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary seedling selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number K98-4069-21, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Fisnics Pastel was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain in April, 2000.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in Galder, Gran Canaria, Spain, since July, 2000, 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 Pastel’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Fisnics Pastel’ as a new and distinct Impatiens cultivar:

1. Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; medium to tall growth habit.
2. Freely branching and freely flowering habit.
3. Deep green-colored foliage.

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4. Large, nearly round, white-colored flowers with a light red purple hue on the banner petals and near the petal margins with a small red purple-colored eye zone; flowers are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

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

1. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were more rounded than flowers of plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens were lighter in color than flowers of plants of the female parent selection.

15 Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the male parent selection primarily in plant size as plants of the new Impatiens were larger than plants of the male parent selection.

20 Plants of the new Impatiens can also be compared to plants of the cultivar Samoa, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,422. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in Hillscheid, Germany, plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Samoa in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were taller than plants of the cultivar Samoa.
2. Plants of the new Impatiens had lighter green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Samoa.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Samoa.
4. Flowers of plants of the new Impatiens and the cultivar Samoa differed slightly in flower coloration.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

40 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 Pastel' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Fisnics Pastel 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 Hilscheid, 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 Pastel.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number K98-4069-25, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number K98-4069-21, not patented.

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 in color.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Outwardly spreading and uniformly mounded plant growth habit; medium to tall growth habit; freely branching habit; bushy appearance; freely flowering. Moderately vigorous to 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 25 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 40 to 45 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: About 11. Length: About 20 to 22 cm. Diameter: About 7 to 9 mm. Internode length: About 3.5 to 4 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B; near the nodes, 179A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Primarily in whorls. Length: About 12.5 to 13.5 cm. Width: About 4 to 4.5 cm. Shape: Elliptic; narrow. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Serrulate with ciliation. Texture: Smooth, slightly rugose; glabrous. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: Between 137D and 143A. Developing foliage, lower

surface: 138A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 139C. Venation, upper surface: 179B. Venation, lower surface: 160D to 174D. Petiole: Length: About 1 to 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: 179A. Color, lower surface: 174C.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single, large, nearly round and white-colored flowers with a light red purple hue on the banner petals and near the petal margins with a small red purple-colored eye zone. 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 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 66D to lighter than 66D.

Flower length.—About 8 cm.

Flower width.—About 7.8 cm.

Flower depth.—About 1 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: Five per flower, imbricate. Length: Banner petals: About 3.5 to 3.7 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 4 to 4.5 cm. Width: Banner petal: About 5.1 to 5.3 cm. Lateral and base petals: About 4.5 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Distinctly lobed, emarginate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture: Smooth; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 62D to lighter than 62D. When opening, lower surface: 62C to 62D. Fully opened, upper surface: Mostly white, 155D; light red purple, 62D, hue on the banner petals and near the petal margins; small eye zone, 68B. Fully opened, lower surface: 155D.

Spur.—Quantity: One per flower. Length: About 6 to 6.3 cm. Diameter: At apex: About 0.5 mm. At flower: About 3 mm. Aspect: Curved. Color: 53D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 5.5 to 6.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Strength: Strong, flexible. Color: 180B to 180C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, hooded; filaments free. Anther length: About 6 mm. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther color: 67C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 8D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 5 to 6 mm. Stigma color: 12D. Style color: 12D. Ovary: Five-celled. Ovary color: 143B to 143C.

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 Pastel', as illustrated and described.

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