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(12) United States Plant Patent
Sakazaki**(10) Patent No.: US PP14,871 P2****(45) Date of Patent: Jun. 8, 2004****(54) PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'USTUNI223'****(50) Latin Name: *Petunia*×*hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: Ustuni223**(75) Inventor: Ushio Sakazaki, Shiga (JP)****(73) Assignee: Plant 21 LLC, San Marco, CA (US)****(*) 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.: 10/638,680****(22) Filed: Aug. 11, 2003****(51) Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00****(52) U.S. Cl. Plt./356****(58) Field of Search Plt./356***Primary Examiner*—Anne Marie Grunberg
Assistant Examiner—Annette H Para**(57) ABSTRACT**A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Ustuni223', characterized by its semi-upright to cascading plant habit; freely branching habit; numerous single flowers that are red in color; and good garden performance.**1 Drawing Sheet****1**Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Ustuni223.**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 cultivar name Ustuni223.The new *Petunia* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hikone, Shiga, Japan. The objective of the breeding program is to create new disease-resistant and heat-tolerant *Petunias* with semi-upright plant habit and attractive flower colors.The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor on May 6, 1998 of a proprietary *Petunia* seedling selection identified as code number PJ10-7, not patented, as the female, or seed parent, with the *Petunia* cultivar *Surfinia Hotpink*, not patented, as the male, or pollen parent. The new *Petunia* was selected as a single plant from the resulting progeny on Jun. 15, 1999 in Gensingen, Germany, on the basis of its plant habit and attractive flower coloration.Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal vegetative cuttings since Jun. 25, 1999, taken in Gensingen, Germany 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 Ustuni223 have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat 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 'Ustuni223'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Ustuni223' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Semi-upright to cascading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Numerous single flowers that are red in color.
4. Good garden performance.

2In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Hikone, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Petunia* differed from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more cascading than and not as upright as plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more vigorous than plants of the female parent selection.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Hikone, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Petunia* differed from plants of the male parent, the cultivar *Surfinia Hotpink*, primarily in flower coloration as plants of the cultivar *Surfinia Hotpink* had pink-colored flowers.Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the cultivar *Cascadia Red*, not patented, and *Surfinia Red*, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new *Petunia* differed from plants of the cultivars *Cascadia Red* and *Surfinia Red* in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more outwardly spreading than and not as upright as plants of the cultivars *Cascadia Red* and *Surfinia Red*.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more freely branching than plants of the cultivars *Cascadia Red* and *Surfinia Red*.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHSThe 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 reproductions 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 *Petunia*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of three typical plants of 'Ustuni223' grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers and leaves of 'Ustuni223'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Bonsall,

Calif., in an outdoor nursery during the spring under full sun conditions with day temperatures ranging from about 18 to about 35° C. and night temperatures ranging from about 7 to about 18° C. After planting rooted cuttings, plants were grown for about four weeks in 15-cm containers with three plants per container. 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: *Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Ustuni223.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code number PJ10-7, not patented.

Male parent.—*Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Surfina Hotpink, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer and winter.—About 15 days at 20 to 22° C.

Time to develop roots, summer and winter.—About 20 days at 18 to 20° C.

Root description.—Fine; white, close to 155D, in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Form.—Annual flowering plant; indeterminate; initially upright, then semi-upright to outwardly spreading and cascading; uniformly mounted plant form. Freely branching habit with about five to six lateral branches and numerous secondary lateral branches per plant. Pinching will enhance development of lateral branches.

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

Plant height.—About 18 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread), single plant.—About 25.5 cm.

Vigor.—Vigorous; rapid growth rate.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 27 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 2.5 to 4.5 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate before flowering; opposite after flowers develop; simple. Length: About 5 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent, glandular. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: 146A. Developing leaves, lower surface: 144A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 146A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 146B. Venation, upper surface: 145B. Venation, lower surface: 145C. Petiole length: About 6 mm. Petiole diameter: About 4 mm. Petiole color: 144B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single salverform flowers; flowers face mostly upward or outward; axillary. Freely flowering habit, about two to three open

flowers and about three to five flower buds per lateral branch at one time.

Natural flowering season.—Long day responsive; long flowering period, spring until frost in the autumn; flowering continuous during this period. Plants start flowering about four weeks after planting rooted cuttings. Flowers persistent.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About five days.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 6.5 cm. Tube length: About 3 cm. Throat diameter, distal end: About 1.7 cm. Tube diameter, proximal end: About 4 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Elongated oblong with ruffled apices. Color: 54C.

Petals.—Quantity/arrangement: About five petals fused in a single whorl, funnellform. Length from throat: About 3 cm. Width: About 3.2 cm. Shape: Roughly fan-shaped. Apex: Rounded to broadly acute. Margin: Entire; undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: 53B to 53C. When opening, lower surface: 55B. Fully opened, upper surface: 54B; towards the throat, 52A. Fully opened, lower surface: 55C. Flower throat (inside): 56B. Flower tube (outside): 56C. Venation, upper petal surface: 52A. Venation, lower petal surface: 147C. Venation, throat: 54C. Venation, tube: 147C.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals fused at base, star-shaped. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Shape: Elliptic to ovate. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 146A. Color, lower surface: 146B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 1.25 mm. Angle: About 45 to 60° from the stem. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About five. Anther shape: Ovoid. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 160B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 158A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1.8 cm. Style length: About 1.4 cm. Style color: 145C. Stigma shape: Anvil-shaped. Stigma color: 144C. Ovary color: 144B.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and/or fruit production has 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*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance. Plants of the new *Petunia* have been noted to tolerate temperatures from 0 to 38° C. and have excellent tolerance to rain and wind.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Ustuni223', as illustrated and described.

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