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**(12) United States Plant Patent
Hall****(10) Patent No.: US PP15,231 P2
(45) Date of Patent: Oct. 12, 2004****(54) LAVANDULA PLANT NAMED 'THUMBELINA
LEIGH'****(50) Latin Name: *Lavandula angustifolia*
Varietal Denomination: Thumbelina Leigh****(76) Inventor: Elsie Hall, Leighvander, RD 1, Wairau
Valley, Marlborough (NZ)****(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 22 days.****(21) Appl. No.: 10/665,842****(22) Filed: Sep. 19, 2003****(51) Int. Cl.⁷ A01H 5/00****(52) U.S. Cl. Plt./226****(58) Field of Search Plt./226****(56) References Cited
PUBLICATIONS**UPOV-ROM GTITM Computer Database, 2003/05, GTI
Jouve Retrieval Software, citation for 'Thumbelina Leigh'.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) ABSTRACTA new cultivar of *Lavandula angustifolia* plant named
'Thumbelina Leigh' that is characterized by a compact
rounded habit, violet-blue flowers, strong fragrance and
repeat flowering. In combination, these traits set it apart
from all other existing varieties of *Lavandula* known to the
inventor.**2 Drawing Sheets****1**Botanical classification: *Lavandula angustifolia*.
Variety denomination: 'Thumbelina Leigh'.**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Lavandula angustifolia* and hereinafter referred to by the
cultivar name 'Thumbelina Leigh'. The new cultivar was
discovered as a seedling growing in a bed of *Lavandula*
angustifolia 'Hidcote' (not patented) in a cultivated area of
Wairau Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand in 1993. However,
since the bed was open pollinated in an area of other lavender
varieties, the exact parents are unknown.The new lavender plant 'Thumbelina Leigh' is distinct
and unique due to its compact rounded habit, violet-blue
flowers, strong fragrance and repeat flowering. The closest
comparison plant is *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Lady' (not
patented). 'Thumbelina Leigh' is distinguishable from
'Lady' by its smaller overall size, a darker green stem,
cylindrical spike shape, purple calyx and more vigorous
habit.The new cultivar was first asexually propagated by cut-
tings in Wairau Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand by the
inventor in 1993. Since that time subsequent generations
have been determined fixed and stable.**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**The new lavender 'Thumbelina Leigh' is distinguished
from all other known varieties of *Lavandula*, by the follow-
ing characteristics:

1. Compact rounded habit.
2. Short compact flower spikes of violet-blue flowers.
3. A strong sweet fragrance.
4. Repeat flowering.

These unique traits set 'Thumbelina Leigh' apart from all
other existing varieties known to the inventor.'Thumbelina Leigh' is distinguishable from *Lavandula*
angustifolia 'Lady' by its smaller overall size, a darker green**2**stem, cylindrical spike shape, purple calyx and more vigor-
ous habit.'Thumbelina leigh' is distinguishable from 'Hidcote' in
having a smaller flower spike and a darker corolla color.**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**The accompanying color photographs illustrate the dis-
tinguishing characteristics of the new cultivar 'Thumbelina
Leigh'.

FIG. 1 shows the entire plant, illustrating the plant habit.

FIG. 2 illustrates the flowers of 'Thumbelina Leigh'. All
photographs are taken using conventional photographic
techniques and although foliage colors may appear different
from actual colors due to light reflectance, they are as
accurate as possible by conventional photography.**BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT**The following is a detailed description of the *Lavandula*
angustifolia cultivar named 'Thumbelina Leigh'. Data was
collected in Wairau Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand from
12 month old plants grown in one-gallon containers. Phe-
notypic differences may be observed with variations in
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, without
however, any difference in genotype. Color determinations
are in accordance with the 1995 Royal Horticultural Society
Colour Chart except where general color terms of ordinary
dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements
are similar to the species and no disease problems have been
observed.Botanical classification: *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Thum-
belina Leigh'

Common name: Lavender.

Parentage: The parents of 'Thumbelina Leigh' are unknown.

Type: Aromatic perennial shrub.

Use: Ornamental, hedge or back of border plant.

Growth rate: 4 to 8 cm per month.

Habit: Rounded habit, compact with erect, ascending flower
spikes.

Height: 40 cm in height.
 Spread: 30 cm in width.
 Hardiness: Zone 5 to zone 10.
 Propagation method: Cuttings.
 Root system: Fibrous.
 Soil: Plant in well-drained soil.
 Light levels: Plant in full sun.
 Special needs: None observed.
 Time to initiate roots: 18 to 32 days from an unrooted cutting.
 Time to develop in a one-gallon container: 6 months from a rooted cutting.
 Branching habit: Erect, upright and semi-open.
 Seasonal interest: Violet-blue flowers in July and August in the Northern Hemisphere.
 Vigor: Vigorous grower.
 Stem:
 Shape.—Cylindrical.
 Surface.—Puberulent.
 Color.—143B.
 Size.—4 mm in diameter, 18 cm in length.
 Foliage:
 Arrangement.—Erect stems of basal leaves.
 Leaf division.—Simple.
 Apex.—Acute.
 Base.—Attenuate.
 Margins.—Entire.
 Leaf shape.—Linear.
 Color of mature leaves (upper and lower surfaces).—135B.
 Color of young leaves.—135B.
 Upper and lower surfaces.—Puberulent.

Venation.—Alternate, visible on lower surface only.
Foliage fragrance.—Intense resinous scent of lavender oil.
Petiole.—Sessile.
Length.—3 cm in length.
Width.—0.50 cm in width.
 Flower:
 Type of inflorescence.—Terminal spike.
 Shape of inflorescence.—Cylindrical-conic fusiform.
 Spike size.—22 cm in height and 16 mm in width.
 Number of flowers per spike.—Approximately 50.
 Flower shape.—Tubular.
 Flower size.—2 cm in length and 10 mm in diameter.
 Corolla.—5 petals, fused.
 Corolla color.—Purple 90A.
 Calyx color.—Violet 86A.
 Calyx surface.—Pubescent.
 Bracteoles.—0.8 mm in length and 0.8 mm in width.
 Bud length.—12 mm.
 Bud diameter.—6 mm.
 Bud color.—90A.
 Fragrance.—Sweet.
 Blooming period.—July and August in the Northern Hemisphere.
 Reproductive organs: Have not been observed.
 Seed production: Has not been observed.
 I claim:
 1. A new and distinct variety of *Lavandula angustifolia* plant named 'Thumbelina Leigh' as described and illustrated.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2