



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP15,471 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 11, 2005**

(54) ***LIRIOPE MUSCARI* PLANT NAMED ‘LOVE
POTION NO. 13’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Liriope muscari***
Varietal Denomination: **Love Potion No. 13**

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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.: **10/224,141**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 19, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2004/0034894 P1 Feb. 19, 2004

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

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

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Liriope muscari* characterized
as to novelty by increased vigor, increased raceme length,
inflorescence with increased duration, intensity, height and
uniformity. The blooming period for the flower is earlier and
longer than other varieties.

4 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Liriope muscari*.
Cultivar designation: ‘Love Potion No. 13’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Liriope muscari Evergreen plant is a popular landscape
plant grown in the southeastern United States because its
dark green leaves and spikes of lavender-colored flowers
require little maintenance.

It is used primarily in mass planting in front of shrubbery.
‘Evergreen giant’ has served well as a dark green grass-like
groundcover for many years. However, it has been losing
vigor and it is more susceptible to disease than in the past.

The new *Liriope* variety was discovered growing in a bed
with about 20,000 ‘Evergreen giant’ plants in the commer-
cial nursery facilities of Rode Groundcovers, Inc. located
near Williston, Fla. in the summer of 1997.

Propagation of the cultivar has been done asexually by
division at the same location. Noteworthy characteristics of
this new cultivar are shown in its floral display that has
better duration, intensity, height and uniformity than other
Liriope varieties available in the United States. Several
generations of the new plant have been evaluated and the
distinctive characteristics of the plant have remained stable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguish-
ing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under
normal horticultural conditions in Williston, Fla.

1. A floral display that has better duration, intensity, height
and uniformity than other *Liriope* varieties in the
marketplace.
2. A rate of multiplication, using ordinary nursery
methods, that is twice as fast as Evergreen giant.
3. A leaf blade that is wider than other large *Liriope*
varieties.
4. A leaf that is pendulous and thus more revealing of the
flower raceme.

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5. Flower racemes are longer, more uniform and stouter
than other large *Liriope* varieties.
6. Unopened flower buds are violet not white as in other
large *Liriope* varieties and thus have more visual
impact.
7. Flower bundles along the length of the raceme are
much closer together and more uniform in spacing.
8. Blooms earlier than other large *Liriope* varieties (June
15th to September 1st peaking around July 15th).
9. The number of flower bundles along the flower raceme
is approximately two times as many as other *Liriope*
varieties.
10. The color of the individual bloom is a darker violet
than other large ‘*Liriope*’ and has a stronger visual
impact above the foliage.
11. The height at maturity is 18–24".
12. Grows well in sun or shade.
13. Uniformity in mass plantings is excellent.
14. ‘Love Potion #13’ has good drought tolerance.
15. It has good cold tolerance and is hardy in zones 8B
through 11.
16. Individual divisions or bibs have significantly more
leaves per fan and more leaf surface area than other
large *Liriope* varieties.
17. ‘Love Potion #13’ exhibits good resistance to common
fungal and bacterial plant pathogens.
18. Increased plant vigor and the amount of leaves per
division result in greatly reduced finishing times in a
commercial nursery.
19. Remains dark green throughout the winter and does
not exhibit “leaf scorch” after frosting.
20. Each division blooms.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The new *Liriope muscari* variety is illustrated by the
accompanying photographic prints in which:

FIG. 1 is a photograph of the new variety 'Love Potion #13' showing long flower racemes which are uniform and stouter than other *Liriope* plants and the dark green color of the grass-like foliage.

FIG. 2 is a side-by-side photograph of the cultivar of the present invention shown on the left side, Evergreen giant in the middle, and the variety 'Merton Jacobs', the subject of U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,068 on the right. The photograph shows the large number of flowers on the flower racemes of the new cultivar that approximate by twice the normal flowers of the other two varieties.

FIG. 3 shows a side-by-side photograph of the new cultivar, Evergreen giant and the variety 'Merton Jacobs'. All plant material has been divided and ready for planting.

FIG. 4 shows a close-up photograph of the flowers of the new cultivar. The color shown is a true as is reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photographic procedures. The colors of the various plant parts are defined by reference to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. Descriptions of colors in ordinary terms represented where appropriate for clarity in meaning.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new variety of *Liriope* based on observations made of plants grown in commercial nursery production practices at Rode Groundcovers, Inc. in Williston, Fla. The parentage is unknown to inventor. The average age of the plants observed was about 12 months.

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS			
Characteristic	'Love Potion #13'	'Evergreen Giant'	'Merton Jacobs'
Height (Mature)	18–24"	24–30"	24–30"
Width (Mature)	24–30"	24–30"	24–30"
Bloom Period	June– September	September– October	August– September
Raceme Length	17–21"	6–10"	14–18"
Leaf Length	18"	21"	18"
Leaf Width	½"	⅝"	¼"
Leaf Color (Mature)	137A	137B	143A

Classification:

[Botanic] *Liriope muscari* 'Love Potion #13'.

Form—Dense, grass-like clump.

The plant normally grows at a rate of about 12" or more per year and reaches a height of about 18–24" and spread of 24–30" at maturity.

Foliage: A dense habit is formed from leaves arising from a central crown. The form of the leaf is simple, linear with an acute apex and cunate base with an entire margin. The texture of the leaf's surface is smooth, glossy and leathery. The grass-like, mature dark green leaves have a green color 137A on the upper side of the leaf which is glossy and glabrous. The underside is green 137B. The veins are green 137A and the area between the veins is 137C. The average number of leaves per stem is 23. The average length is 18 inches with a width of ½ inch. The plant is acaulescent and the leaves are basically equitant.

Inflorescence: The small profuse flowers grow in clusters of 6 and reducing to 2 at the apex. Typically, the diameter of the flower is 10 millimeters, while the depth is 3.5

millimeters. When first opening, the shape of the flower is a cup, later closing. The flowers form on a raceme scape which has an average length of about 24" with an average of 69 pedicels on each scape. The pedicels have a violet color of 80D. The bloom period is early and long, in Florida, starting in June and ending in September. The violet color of the open flower is 88A. The other edge of the flower petal has a violet color of 88D, wherein the petal itself has a purple-violet color 80D. There are 3 petals per flower and 3 petaloids. The petals have an entire margin and are polypetalous.

Flower buds: The small flower buds have a diameter of 3 millimeters and are of an ovoid form. The sepals are hooded over the bud and stand erect. There are six sepals having a color of 88C and a smooth texture. They are spear shaped. The unopened flower bud has a violet color of 88D. The bud has a smooth texture and no pubescence. The shape of the calyx is ovoid with a smooth aspect. The peduncle has a length of 4 to 7 millimeters, and is rigid. The peduncle typically has a diameter of about 1 millimeter, a smooth texture and a color of 76D. The flower buds on pedicels decrease in number from the base of the raceme to the apex, 6 to 2.

Reproductive Organs: The reproductive organs are bisexual, complete and perfect. There are six stamens, basifixed anthers in a connective arrangement. The length of the stamen is 1.5 millimeters and the width is 0.5 millimeters. The color is 6A. The filaments are 3 millimeters in length and the same color as the flower. The plant has on pistil which is 4 millimeters in length with color of 69B. The ovaries have a color of 69D. The ovaries are superior with 3 locules, 2 ovums per locule.

Fruit: The fruit resembles a berry, is globose ⅜" to ⅝" in diameter containing one or two seeds, ⅛"–¼" in diameter, having a color of 196A. The mature fruit has a green color 139A. The fruit rarely appears with an average of about 1 fruit per 200 plants.

Disease and pest resistance: The plant is insect and disease free with no chemical sprays at Williston, Fla. As observed [at Rode Groundcovers, Inc.] the cultivar has better resistance to *Phytophthora* spp *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Rhizoctonia solani* than other known *Liriope* varieties.

The plant has no above ground stems. It grows by adding small clumps of leaves on short rhizomes on the side of an existing clump. As the plant grows, the clump becomes larger. The plants are propagated by separating the clump. The plant material has differences with known *Liriope* varieties. The following tables show comparative information with the new variety and Evergreen giant and Merton Jacobs.

Comparison measurement of leaf blade length (measured ½" above soil line)				
'Evergreen Giant'		'Love Potion #13'		'Merton Jacobs'
21.06 inches	[Average]	17.8 inches	[Average]	18.2 inches

Thirty specimens of each variety were used in this study. For each variety, the measurements were combined and averaged. The leaf blade length of this cultivar is slightly shorter than the Merton Jacobs, described in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,068 and is significantly shorter than the Evergreen giant.

Comparison measurement of leaf blade width (measured at mid length of blade) width given in 16 th inch				
‘Evergreen Giant’		‘Love Potion #13’		‘Merton Jacobs’
5/16 inches	[Rounded]	1/2 inches	[Rounded]	1/4 inches

Thirty plants of each variety were measured with the leaf blade width of the new cultivar on average being twice as wide as the Merton Jacobs variety and slightly wider than the parent stock, Evergreen giant.

Foliage Color Comparison			
Plant Part	‘Evergreen Giant’ RHC#/color group	‘Love potion #13’ RHC#/color group	‘Merton Jacobs’ pp#12068 RHC#/ color group
Upper side of leaf	137B/green	137A/green	143A/green
Under side of leaf	143A/green	137B/green	137C/green
Leaf veins	143B/green	137A/green	137A/green
Leaf area between veins	143C/green	137C/green	137D/green

Flower Color Comparison			
Plant Part	‘Evergreen Giant’ RHC#/color group	‘Love Potion #13’ RHC#/color group	‘Merton Jacobs’ pp#12068 RHC#/ color group
Unopened flower bud	85B/violet	88D/violet	85B/violet
Open flower	82B/purple violet	88A/violet	85B/violet
Outer edge of flower petal	82C/purple violet	88D/violet	82D/purple violet
Flower petal	80D/purple violet	80D/purple violet	85D/violet
Immature flower buds	160C/grey yellow	86B/violet	155C/white
Pollen	6A/yellow	5A/yellow	3B/yellow
Raceme base	79B/purple violet	181C/grey red	76D/purple
Raceme apex	77A/purple	62C/red purple	76a/purple
Pedicel	85C/violet	80D/violet	85D/violet

The above Foliage and Flower Color Comparisons were observed on an August afternoon in Williston, Fla.

Comparison of length of flower Raceme in inches (measured 1/2" above the soil line)				
‘Evergreen Giant’		‘Love Potion #13’		‘Merton Jacobs’
11.6 inches	Average	16.3 inches	Average	14 inches

Ten plants of each variety were measured. ‘Love Potion #13’s flower raceme is approximately 30% longer than its parent stock, Evergreen giant, and 24% longer than Merton Jacobs U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,068.

Comparison of number of flower bundles per raceme				
‘Evergreen Giant’		‘Love Potion #13’		‘Merton Jacobs’
23.1	Average	55.9	Average	28.9

Ten plants of each variety were measured. ‘Love Potion #13’ has approximately twice the number of flower bundles as Evergreen giant or Merton Jacobs U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,068. This strong distinction in floral display allows ‘Love Potion #13’ to provide much stronger bloom impact than other *Liriope* varieties on the market. ‘Love Potion #13’ has significantly more flowers, which open simultaneously. This increased quantity of flower bundles and individual flowers also allows for a longer duration of raceme color.

Average number of leaves per division				
‘Evergreen Giant’		‘Love potion #13’		‘Merton Jacobs’
12	[Rounded]	23	[Rounded]	16

Ten plants of each variety were measured, ‘Love Potion #13’ has approximately two times as many leaves per division as Evergreen giant and 70% more than Merton Jacobs U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,068.

Comparison of fresh weight of 30 leaves		
‘Evergreen Giant’	‘Love Potion #13’	‘Merton Jacobs’
74 grams	59 grams	36 grams

A wider leaf surface and a thinner leaf thickness make the new cultivar’s fresh weight 63% heavier than Merton Jacobs and 25% lighter than Evergreen giant.

Comparison of fresh weight of 10 flower Racemes		
‘Evergreen Giant’	‘Love Potion #13’	‘Merton Jacobs’
27 grams	39 grams	30 grams

The density and quantity of the flower bundles when the flower racemes make the present cultivar 31% heavier than its parent stock, Evergreen giant and 25% heavier than the Merton Jacobs.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Liriope* plant named ‘Love Potion No. 13’ as illustrated and described.

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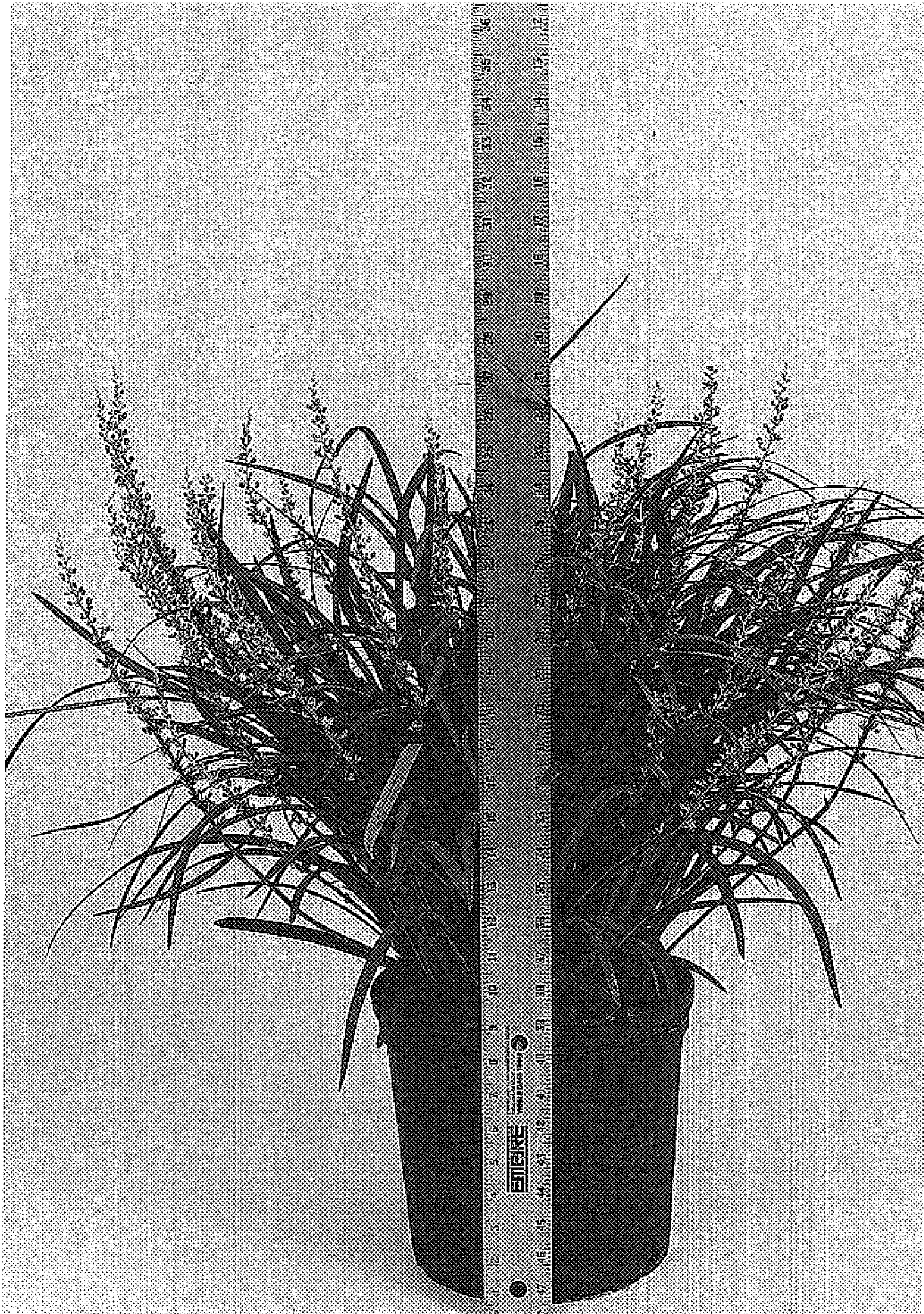


Figure 1

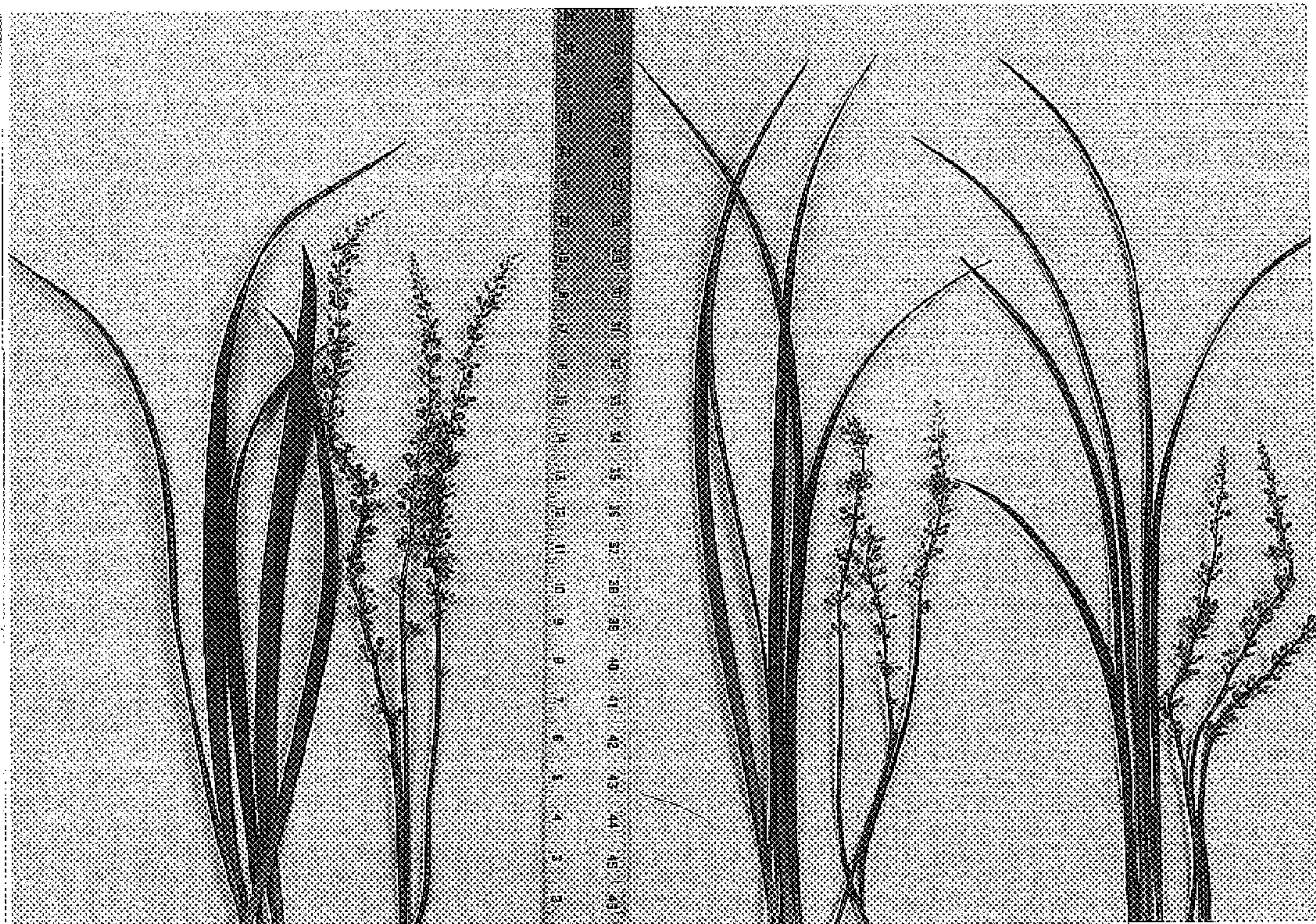


Figure 2



Figure 3

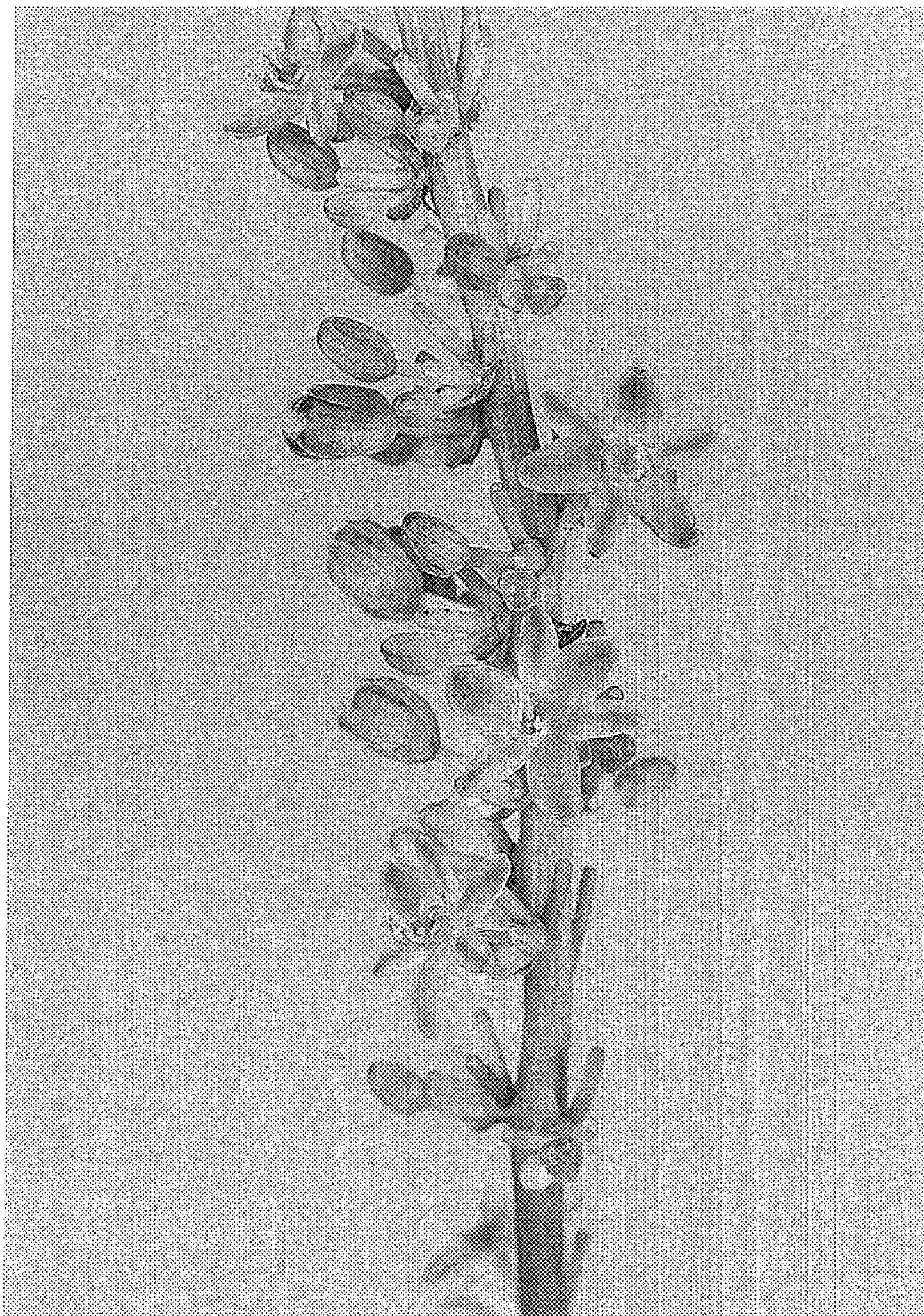


Figure 4