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Hoogendoorn

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(54) **ALSTROEMERIA PLANT NAMED**
'ZALSABEL'

(50) Latin Name: *Alstroemeria hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Zalsabel**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 27 days.

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(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./309**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Alstroemeria* plant named
'Zalsabel', characterized by its erect and strong flowering
stems; vigorous growth habit; intense purple-colored flow-
ers; and good postproduction longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Alstroeme-
ria hybrida* cultivar Zalsabel.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Alstroemeria* plant, botanically known as *Alstroeme-
ria hybrida*, commercially used as a cut flower *Alstroemeria*,
and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Zalsabel'.

The new *Alstroemeria* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Hillegom and
Rijnsburg, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding
program was to develop new cut flower *Alstroemeria* cul-
tivars with desirable flower and plant qualities, attractive
flower colors and excellent postproduction longevity.

The new *Alstroemeria* originated from a cross-pollination
made by the Inventor in June, 1996 in Hillegom, The
Netherlands, of a proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida* selection
identified as 95172-1, not patented, as the female, or seed,
parent with a proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida* selection
identified as 95146-1PN, not patented, as the male, or
pollen, parent. The new *Alstroemeria* was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the
progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled envi-
ronment in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands in April, 1997.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by root divisions
taken in a controlled environment in Hillegom, The
Netherlands, since September, 1997, has shown that the
unique features of this new *Alstroemeria* are stable and
reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual
propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Zalsabel have 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 vari-
ance in genotype.

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

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1. Erect and strong flowering stems.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Intense purple-colored flowers.
4. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of the female parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons
conducted in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, plants of the new
Alstroemeria differed from plants of the female parent
selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had shorter flowering
stems than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Flower color of plants of the new *Alstroemeria* was
more intense purple than flower color of plants of the
female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of the male parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons
conducted in Rijnsburg, The Netherlands, plants of the new
Alstroemeria differed from plants of the male parent selec-
tion in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had longer flowering
stems than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Flower color of plants of the new *Alstroemeria* was
more intense purple than flower color of plants of the
male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* can be compared to plants
of the cultivar Stabec, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,041.
In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rijsenhout, The
Netherlands, plants of the new *Alstroemeria* differed from
plants of the cultivar Stabec in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had longer flowering
stems than plants of the cultivar Stabec.
2. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had smaller flowers than
plants of the cultivar Stabec.
3. Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* had intense purple-
colored flowers whereas plants of the cultivar Stabec
had red and white bi-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new *Alstroemeria*, 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 *Alstroemeria*.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering stem of 'Zalsabel'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants of the new *Alstroemeria* grown in Rijshout, The Netherlands in a glass-covered greenhouse in ground beds. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 15 to 25° C., night temperatures ranged from 10 to 15° C. and light levels averaged 5,000 lux. Plants used for the photograph and description were about one year old. The photograph and the description were taken during August and September, 2002. 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: *Alstroemeria hybrida* cultivar Zalsabel.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Alstroemeria hybrida* selection identified as 95172-1, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Alstroemeria hybrida* identified as 95146-1PN, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By root divisions.

Root description.—Fibrous, fleshy, thick; white, close to 155D, in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Rhizomes.—Shape: Elongate; rounded. Length: About 10 to 30 cm. Diameter: About 3 to 10 mm. Texture: Smooth. Color: Close to 155D.

Plant description:

Plant habit.—Upright; freely branching, bushy appearance. Vigorous growth habit.

Time from planting to harvest of cut flowers.—About 80 to 90 days.

Number of flowering stems produced per year.—About 184 to 220.

Plant height.—About 125 to 175 cm.

Plant diameter (spread).—About 30 to 35 cm.

Flowering stem description.—Aspect: Erect. Length: About 150 cm. Diameter: About 4.75 to 10 mm. Internode length: About 2.5 to 6 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: Close to 144A to 144B.

Foliage description.—Leaves asymmetrical; sessile. Length: About 15 to 20 cm. Width: About 3 to 5 cm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Venation pattern: Parallel. Color: Developing and fully developed foliage, upper surface: Close to 137A; glossy. Developing and fully developed foliage, lower surface: Close to 137C. Venation: Upper surface, close to 137A; lower surface, close to 137C.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single cup-shaped flowers arranged in compound umbels. Perianth segments separate. Freely and continuously flowering. Flowers not persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Flowering continuous during the spring in The Netherlands.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About four weeks.

Flower longevity as a cut flower.—About 12 to 16 days.

Flower buds (showing color).—Length: About 2.5 to 3 cm. Diameter: About 1 to 2 cm. Shape: Roughly ovoid. Color: Purplish.

Umbel length.—About 15 to 25 cm.

Umbel diameter.—About 25 to 30 cm.

Number of flowers per umbel.—About 7 to 11.

Flower length (height).—About 6.5 to 7 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 5 to 6 cm.

Flower depth.—About 6 to 6.5 cm.

Perianth.—Arrangement: Six arranged in two whorls, each whorl with two lateral and one median segments. Size, inner perianth segments: Length: Laterals, about 6 to 7 cm; median, 5 cm. Width: Laterals, about 1 to 2 cm; median, 1.8 to 2 cm. Size, outer perianth segments: Length: Laterals, about 5 to 6 cm; median, about 6 to 7 cm. Width: Laterals, about 3.5 to 4 cm; median, about 3 to 3.5 cm. Shape, inner perianth, all segments: Oblanceolate. Shape, outer perianth, all segments: Obovate. Apex, inner perianth, all segments: Acute. Apex, outer perianth, all segments: Bracket-shaped. Base, inner and outer perianths, all segments: Attenuate. Margin, inner and outer perianths, all segments: Entire; weakly undulate. Texture, inner and outer perianths, all segments: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Color, inner perianth: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Laterals: 77A to 77B; towards base, 155D; splotches in white area, 2A; spots and stripes, close to 187A. Median: 77A to 77B; spots and stripes, close to 187A. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Laterals: 77A to 77B; towards base, 155D; splotches in white area, 2A. Median: 77A to 77B. Color, outer perianth: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Laterals: 77A to 78C with green tip. Median: 77A to 78B with green tip. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Laterals and median: 77A to 78B with green tip and venation.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4 to 8 cm. Diameter: About 3 to 4 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 20 to 30° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 137A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2 to 3 cm. Diameter: About 2 to 3 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 20 to 30° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 137A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Six. Anther shape: Elliptical. Anther length: About 8 mm. Anther diameter: About 3 mm. Anther color: Close to 201A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Between 202A to 202B and 95A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Style length: About 4 to 5 cm. Style color: Dark purple. Ovary color: Close to 144A.

Fruit.—Shape: Globular. Color: Brownish.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Alstroemeria* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from -5 to 40° C. It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Alstroemeria* plant named 'Zalsabel' as illustrated and described.

