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Stemkens

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(54) **VERBENA PLANT NAMED ‘DUPLENA’**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(50) Latin Name: *Verbenaxhybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Duplena**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./308**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./308**

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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 70 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant particularly distinguished by its lilac flowers, early flowering, and a spreading habit that is first semi-erect and later spreading.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/342,699**

1 Drawing Sheet

(22) Filed: **Jan. 15, 2003**

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Botanical classification: *Verbenaxhybrida*.
Varietal denomination: ‘Duplena’.

Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena*, botanically known as *Verbenaxhybrida*.

The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of ‘X816-1’ and ‘X-816-2’. ‘X816-1’ is a violet flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. ‘X816-1’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. ‘X816-2’ is a pink flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. ‘X816-2’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. Neither ‘X816-1’ nor ‘X816-2’ has been patented.

As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1998 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three-year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Verbena*. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 14 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse and grown in a 10.5 cm container.

Differences between the new cultivar ‘Duplena,’
its parents and a similar cultivar

	‘Duplena’	‘X816-1’	‘X816-2’	‘Temari lilac’
Flower color	Light lilac	Violet	Pink	Deep lilac
Earliness	Early	Very early	Late	Late
Internode length	Short	Short	Long	Very long
Plant size	Medium	Compact	Big	Big
Seed set	No	No	Much	Abundant

The commercial name of the most resembling variety is ‘Temari lilac.’ The patented name of this variety is ‘Sunmaricos’ and its U.S. Plant Pat. No. is 14,292.

The plant

Classification — botanical: *Verbenaxhybrida*

Parentage:

Female parent.—A seedling named ‘X816-1’ is one of our seedlings from our Z-generation of plants bred in 1996.

Pollen parent.—A seedling named ‘X816-2’ is one of our seedlings from our Z-generation of plants bred in 1996.

Growth habit: Spreading

Plant height: 14–20 cm

Spreading area of plant: 35–65 cm

Growth rate: Hanging and vigorous

Strength: Resistant to hot and cold weather

Branching character: Freely branching and lateral branching at every node

Blooming period: From April until November

The stem

Diameter: 2.5–3 mm

Length: 8–12 cm

Shape: Tetragonal

Color: Deep green 137D

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Anthocyanin pigmentation: Present, color 180D
 Length of internode: 20–40 mm, depending on the light
 where the plant is propagated
 Pubescence: Pubescence is present
 Length lateral branches: 17–28 cm

The foliage

Phyllotaxis: Opposite
 Shape of blade: Broadly ovate
 Texture:
 Upper side.—Pubescent.
 Lower side.—Pubescent.
 Venation: Pinnate
 Leaf margin: Simple incised
 Leaf base: Shortly attenuate
 Leaf apex: Acute
 Length: 25–40 mm
 Width: 18–30 mm
 Depth of incision: 2–4 mm
 Color:
 Upper side.—Dark green 137C.
 Lower side.—Light green 138A.
 Pubescence: Some pubescence is present
 Length of leaf stem: 5–12 mm
 Petiole surface structure: Slightly pubescent
 Petiole diameter: 2–3 mm
 Petiole coloration: 141C

The bud

Peduncle length: 30–60 mm, depending on season
 Peduncle diameter: 2–3 mm
 Peduncle color: 138A
 Size of the bud:
 Length.—8–12 mm.
 Diameter.—2 mm.
 Shape: Elongated and ovate
 Color: Medium green 137D
 Sepals:
 Color (upper side).—Light green 138B.
 Color (lower side).—138C.
 Form.—Upright.
 Number.—5, fused.
 Length.—6–7 mm.
 Width.—2 mm.
 Shape.—Elongated.
 Apex.—Apiculate.
 Base.—Fused.
 Margin.—Entire.

The flower

Facing direction: Upward
 Outward curvature of petal: Slightly curved
 Flower diameter: 18–24 mm
 Flower height: 16–18 mm
 Flower tube length: 14–16 mm
 Flower throat diameter: 2 mm
 Borne: In a cluster
 Form: Salverform; sessile on terminal spikes
 Petal color:

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Upper side.—Lilac N81A.

Lower side.—Lilac N81C.

Eye: A very small (1 mm) whitish Eye (155C) is present
 Typically three out of the five petals exhibit this whitish
 coloration on the upper side of them

Overlapping of the petals: Separate

Number of petals: Gamopetalous, five lobed

Shape of the petals: Each petal is obcordate

Petal apex: Emarginate

Petal base: Fused

Petal margin: Entire

Petal surface texture: Smooth

Size of the petal:

Length.—6–8 mm.

Width.—6–8 mm.

Inflorescence:

Length.—25–35 mm.

Diameter.—30–40 mm.

Calyx length: 8–10 mm

Calyx diameter: 2–3 mm

Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb: Absent.

Color of the calyx: Light green 138C (outside surface)

No. of flowers per inflorescence: 20–25

Fragrance: A very light rosy fragrance occurs

Bloom time of one inflorescence: New florets continue to
 open over a period of 14 days

Lastingness of one flower: 2–5 days

The reproductive organs

Androecium:

Stamen quantity.—Four.

Anther shape.—Ovoid.

Anther length.—1 mm.

Anther color.—144D.

Amount of pollen.—Scarce pollen.

Pollen color.—145D.

Gynoecium:

Pistil quantity.—1.

Stigma shape.—Bi-lobed.

Pistil length.—1.8–2.2 mm.

Stigma color.—144C.

Style length.—1.4–1.8 cm.

Style color.—144D.

Ovary color.—144C.

The seed

Seedset: No seedset has been observed

The roots

Type of roots: Fibrous. Roots starts to grown on every part
 of the stem That contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.

Physiological and ecological characteristics: Good tolerance
 to heat and cold. Strong resistance to pests and diseases,
 particularly powdery mildew.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Verbena* plant named
 ‘Duplena’, as illustrated and described.

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