



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

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(54) **BASIL PLANT NAMED ‘PESTO PERPETUO’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ocimum×citriodorum*
Varietal Denomination: **Pesto Perpetuo**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./258**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of Greek columnar basil for landscape and
culinary use, *Ocimum×citriodorum* ‘Pesto Perpetuo’, char-
acterized by variegated foliage of green centers and white
margins and its non-flowering habit enabling year around
vegetative propagation.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification: *Ocimum×citriodorum*.
Varietal denomination: ‘Pesto Perpetuo’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Ocimum×citriodorum* and will be referred to hereafter by
its cultivar name, ‘Pesto Perpetuo’. ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ repre-
sents a new cultivar of Greek columnar basal, a tender
perennial grown for landscape and culinary use.

The inventor discovered the new cultivar, ‘Pesto
Perpetuo’, in a block of containers of *Ocimum×citriodorum*
‘Lesbos’ (not patented) in his nursery in Kensington, Conn.
in April of 2004. ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ arose as a naturally
occurring branch sport of ‘Lesbos’.

The new cultivar was selected as unique for its variegated
foliage characterized by leaves with green centers and white
margins. The parent plant, ‘Lesbo’ is non-variegated. ‘Pesto
Perpetuo’ is non-flowering, a characteristic that it has in
common with ‘Lesbos’.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by terminal stem cuttings in Kensington, Conn. in
May of 2004 by the inventor. The characteristics of this
cultivar have been determined to be stable and are repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar as observed
on plants grown in an outdoor trial plot for one growing
season in Kensington, Conn. These attributes in combination
distinguish ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ from other Basil varieties
known to the inventor.

1. ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ exhibits variegated foliage with leaves
having green centers and white margins. The parent
plant, ‘Lesbos’ is non-variegated.
2. ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ is non-flowering, similar to the parent
plant.
3. ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ remains vegetative, propagation by
terminal stem cuttings is possible 12 months a year.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying color photograph illustrated the foli-
age characteristics of a four month-old plant of ‘Pesto
Perpetuo’ as grown in a one-quart container in a greenhouse
in Kensington, Conn. The colors in the photographs are as
close as possible with the digital photography techniques
available, the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description accurately describe the colors of the new Basil.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar
as grown outdoors and in a greenhouse for an entire growing
season in Kensington, Conn. The phenotype of the new
cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic,
and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all
possible environmental conditions. The color determination
is in accordance with the 2001 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The
Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where
general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are
used.

Botanical classification: ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ is a cultivar of
Ocimum×citriodorum.

Common name: Pesto Perpetuo Green columnar basil.

Parentage: Naturally occurring branch sport of *Ocimum×*
citriodorum ‘Lesbo’.

General description:

Plant habit.—Tender perennial, clump forming,
upright, non-flowering.

Growth rate.—Moderately vigorous.

Height and spread.—Reaches about 1 to 1.25 m (3 to
4 ft) in height, about 60 cm (2 ft) in width in a normal
growing season in Kensington, Conn.

Culture.—Prefers full sun and humus rich soils, in
average temperatures above 50° F.

Diseases and pests.—No disease resistance studies
have been performed for ‘Pesto Perpetuo’.

Root description.—Fibrous and fine.

Growth and propagation:

Propagation.—Terminal stem cuttings, possible 12
months a year as the plants remain vegetative.

Root initiation and development.—Cuttings root in 2 to 3 weeks, rooted cuttings fully develop a 72-cell plug in 4 to 6 weeks when grown in soil-less media in a greenhouse conditions with bottom heat and an air temperature of 68° F.

Stem description:

Stem shape.—Round when young, becoming more square with age.

Stem color.—Intermediate color between 144A and 144B, older stems are tinged with N79A.

Stem size.—Up to 1 cm in diameter, main stem is up to about 1.2 m in length.

Stem surface.—Glabrous.

Internode length.—Up to 4 cm.

Branching.—About 3 to 4 secondary branches per main stem.

Foliage description:

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite with secondary set of leaves developing at nodes after primary leaves expand.

Leaf shape.—Ovate to Elliptic.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Cuneate.

Leaf apex.—Acute.

Leaf venation.—Pinnate, not conspicuous, color on upper surface is the same as the leaf color, color on lower surface 139D with glistening appearance.

Leaf margins.—Serrate.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Leaf surface.—Upper and lower surfaces: glabrous with lower surface also appearing glandular.

Leaf color.—Immature: upper and lower surface; centers between 138B and 138C, margins 155A. Mature: upper; centers 138B, margins 155B, lower; centers 138C, margins 155B.

Leaf size.—Average of 4 cm length and 2.5 cm in width.

Leaf fragrance.—Strongly basil-scented.

Petiole size.—Average of 1 cm in length and 2.5 mm in width.

Petiole color.—Intermediate color between 144A and 144B.

Flower description: ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ is non-flowering.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Basil plant named ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ as herein illustrated and described.

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