



US00PP16358P3

(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Iwaki et al.**

(10) **Patent No.: US PP16,358 P3**  
(45) **Date of Patent: Mar. 21, 2006**

(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED ‘SUNPURPLE’**  
  
(50) Latin Name: *Petunia hybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **Sunpurple**  
  
(75) Inventors: **Kazunari Iwaki**, Omihachiman (JP);  
**Takuro Ishihara**, Higashikurume (JP);  
**Kiyoshi Miyazaki**, Hikone (JP);  
**Kenichi Suzuki**, Ibaraki (JP); **Shinya**  
**Miyano**, Katori-gun (JP)

(73) Assignees: **Suntory Flowers Limited**, Tokyo (JP);  
**Keisei Rose Nurseries, Inc.**, Tokyo  
(JP)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 75 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/789,360**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 26, 2004**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2005/0193455 P1 Sep. 1, 2005

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./356**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **Plt./356**  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP6,899 P 7/1989 Tsuda et al.  
PP6,914 P 7/1989 Tsuda et al.  
PP6,915 P 7/1989 Tsuda et al.  
PP9,322 P 10/1995 Tachibana et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP PBR 13924 6/2002  
JP PBR 14542 9/2002

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“1999–2000 Seed & Plant Catalog” 1999 Ball Horticultural  
Company, USA.

“Suntory Collection 2004” 2003 Moerheim New Plant bv.

*Primary Examiner*—Kent Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Christie, Parker and Hale,  
LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a new and distinct variety of *Petunia*  
plant named ‘Sunpurple’ having a decumbent growth habit  
and long stems. ‘Sunpurple’ has abundant branching, and  
great profusion of blooms, the whole plant remaining in  
bloom for a considerable period of time. The flowers are  
single and medium size, the petals having vivid reddish  
purple color. The bottom and the outside color of the corolla  
throat is deep reddish purple. The plant exhibits high resis-  
tance to heat, cold, rain and diseases.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

Botanical classification: *Petunia hybrida*.  
Varietal denomination: ‘Sunpurple’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety  
of *Petunia* plant, which originated from crossing a seedling  
of a *Petunia* variety called ‘Red Madness’ (unpatented) as  
the female parent and a *Petunia* wild species called ‘70-200’  
(unpatented) as the male parent.

The *Petunia* is a very popular plant that is used for flower  
bedding and potting in the summer season. There are only a  
few *Petunia* varieties that do not have an upright growth  
habit and that have a high resistance to rain, heat, and  
diseases. The *Petunia* plants such as REVOLUTION series,  
‘Revolution Purple pink’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,915), ‘Revo-  
lution Brilliant pink’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,914), ‘Revolu-  
tion Brilliantpink-Mini’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,899), and  
‘Revolution Blue vein’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,322) are  
decumbent type plants having long stems, a lower plant  
height, abundant branching, and a high resistance to heat,  
rain and diseases. However, there are only a few *Petunia*  
varieties having a decumbent plant shape, a great profusion  
of flowers, vivid reddish purple petals and a high resistance  
to rain, heat, and diseases. Accordingly, this invention was  
aimed at obtaining a new variety having vivid reddish purple  
petals together with the above features.

**2**

The female parent ‘Red Madness’ used in the crossing to  
produce ‘Sunpurple’ is a cultivar having compact and  
spreading growth habit with medium size single flowers, the  
petals having a strong red color.

The male parent ‘70-200’ used in the crossing to produce  
‘Sunpurple’ is a strain of wild *Petunia* species having  
decumbent growth habit with much branching. It has small  
size single flowers, the petals having vivid reddish purple  
color.

In April 2000, crossing of ‘Red Madness’ as the female  
parent and ‘70-200’ as the pollen parent was conducted at  
Yokaichi, Shiga, Japan. In August 2000, 80 seedlings were  
obtained from that crossing. These seedlings were grown in  
pots in glasshouses and were evaluated. One seedling was  
selected in view of its growth habit, flower size and color in  
October 2000. That seedling was propagated by cuttings and  
a trial was carried out by flower potting and bedding from  
April to September 2001. The botanical characteristics of  
that plant were then examined, using similar varieties ‘Sun-  
ripami’ (unpatented) and ‘Sunrovein’ (U.S. Plant patent  
application Ser. No. 10/789,408) for comparison. As a result,  
it was concluded that this *Petunia* plant is distinguishable  
from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and  
uniform and stable in its characteristics. The instant plant  
reproduces true to type in successive generations of asexual  
reproduction. The new variety of *Petunia* plant was named  
‘Sunpurple’.

In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S.).

#### SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any *Petunia* commercially available variety known to the inventors, as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Decumbent growth habit with long stems.
2. Abundant branching and great profusion of blooms.
3. The flowers are single and medium size. The petal color is vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. N74A).
4. The plant has a high resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases.

The new variety 'Sunpurple' differs from the similar variety 'Sunripami' in the following points.

1. The leaf of 'Sunpurple' is longer than that of 'Sunripami'.
2. The leaf of 'Sunpurple' is thinner than that of 'Sunripami'.
3. The flower of 'Sunpurple' is larger than that of 'Sunripami'.
4. The bottom color of the corolla throat of 'Sunpurple' is deep reddish purple (near R.H.S. 72A), while that of 'Sunripami' is moderate purple (near R.H.S. 83B).
5. The outside color of the corolla throat of 'Sunpurple' is deep reddish purple (near R.H.S. N79B), while that of 'Sunripami' is strong purple (near R.H.S. 83D).
6. The apex shape of the petal tip of 'Sunpurple' is obtuse. That of 'Sunripami' is rounded.
7. The flowering time of 'Sunpurple' is later than that of 'Sunripami'.

The new variety 'Sunpurple' differs from the similar variety 'Sunrovein' in the following points.

1. The plant height of 'Sunpurple' is lower than that of 'Sunrovein'.
2. The leaf of 'Sunpurple' is longer than that of 'Sunrovein'.
3. The leaf of 'Sunpurple' is thinner than that of 'Sunrovein'.
4. The petal color of 'Sunpurple' is vivid reddish purple (near R.H.S. N74A), while that of 'Sunrovein' is vivid purplish red (near R.H.S. 71B) with deep purplish red (near R.H.S. 71A) vein.
5. The bottom color of the corolla throat of 'Sunpurple' is deep reddish purple (near R.H.S. 72A), while that of 'Sunrovein' is moderate purplish red (near R.H.S. 64A).
6. The outside color of the corolla throat is deep reddish purple (near R.H.S. N79B), while that of 'Sunrovein' is light purplish pink (near R.H.S. 62C).

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The depicted plants had been produced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during July 2003 at an age of approximately 6 months while growing outdoors in 15 cm pots at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, under typical outdoor conditions for that region.

FIG. 1 is a photograph of a typical plant of the new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpurple'.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of flowers and leaves of the new variety of *Petunia* plant 'Sunpurple'.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant named 'Sunpurple' at an age of 4 months, at Yokaichi, Shiga, Japan, are as follows.

##### Plant:

*Growth habit.*—Decumbent.

*Plant height.*—Approximately 12.3 cm.

*Spreading area of plant.*—Approximately 33.2 cm.

*Blooming period.*—April to late October in the southern Kanto area, Japan. The plant shape does not change throughout this period. A typical flower commonly lasts approximately 5 days on the plant when experiencing a temperature of approximately 20° C.

##### Stem:

*Length.*—Approximately 30 cm.

*Thickness.*—Approximately 2.5 mm.

*Pubescence.*—Present and typical for the species.

*Branching.*—Abundant.

*Internode length.*—Approximately 2.2 cm.

*Color.*—Near R.H.S. 144A (strong yellow green).

##### Leaf:

*Whole shape.*—Elliptic. The apex shape is acute, and the base shape is attenuate.

*Margin.*—Entire.

*Length.*—Approximately 6.4 cm.

*Width.*—Approximately 3.5 cm.

*Color.*—Upper side color is near R.H.S. 144A (strong yellow green). Bottom side color is near R.H.S. 146C (moderate olive green).

*Thickness.*—Approximately 0.2 mm.

*Pubescence.*—Sparse.

##### Petiole: (Indistinct).

*Length.*—Approximately 3.0 mm.

*Diameter.*—Approximately 1.0 mm.

*Color.*—Near R.H.S. 144B.

##### Buds:

*Shape.*—Cylindrical.

*Length.*—Approximately 4.5 cm.

*Diameter.*—Approximately 7.0 mm.

*Color.*—Toward apex, Near R.H.S. N77B; base, near R.H.S. N79B; venation, near R.H.S. N92A.

##### Flower:

*Facing direction.*—Slanted upward.

*Type.*—Single.

*Shape.*—Funnel-shape, with five-fissured limb.

*Diameter.*—Approximately 7.4 cm.

*Depth.*—Approximately 5.8 cm.

*Throat diameter.*—Distal end, approximately 1.5 cm.

*Tube diameter.*—Proximal end, approximately 4.0 mm.

##### Petals:

*Whole shape.*—Very broadly obtrullate.

*Apex shape.*—Obtuse.

*Width.*—Approximately 4.0 cm.

*Length (from the throat).*—Approximately 3.5 cm.

*Margin.*—Entire, undulated.

*Color.*—Upper side of the petal, near R.H.S. N74A; underside of the petal, near R.H.S. N78A with near N92A venation.

*Upper color of the corolla throat.*—Near R.H.S. N90B with N92A venation.

*Bottom color of the corolla throat.*—Near R.H.S. 72A.

*Outside color of corolla tube.*—Near R.H.S. N79B.

*Reproductive organs.*—1 normal pistil and 5 normal stamens. Color of pistil is near R.H.S. 150C (light

## 5

yellow green). Color of stamen is near R.H.S. 157C (light yellow green).

*Peduncle*.—Approximately 1.3 mm in diameter and approximately 1.9 cm in length. Color — Near R.H.S. 144B. Surface — Pubescent.

*Calyx*.—Medium. 5 sepals fused at the base.

Sepals:

*Shape*.—Narrow elliptic.

*Apex shape*.—Rounded.

*Base*.—Fused.

*Margin*.—Entire, undulated.

*Surface*.—Pubescent.

*Length*.—Approximately 2.5 cm.

*Width*.—Approximately 6.0 mm.

*Color*.—Upper surface, near R.H.S. 144A; lower surface, toward apex, near R.H.S. 144A; base, near R.H.S. N77A.

## 6

*Physiological and ecological characteristics*.—High resistance to cold, heat, rain and diseases. Moderate resistance to pests.

This new variety of *Petunia* plant is most suitable for flower bedding and potting, particularly in hanging pots or planters, and is excellent for use as ground cover. Pinching of old blossoms will enhance the formation of new blossoms.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Petunia* plant named 'Sunpurple', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fig.1

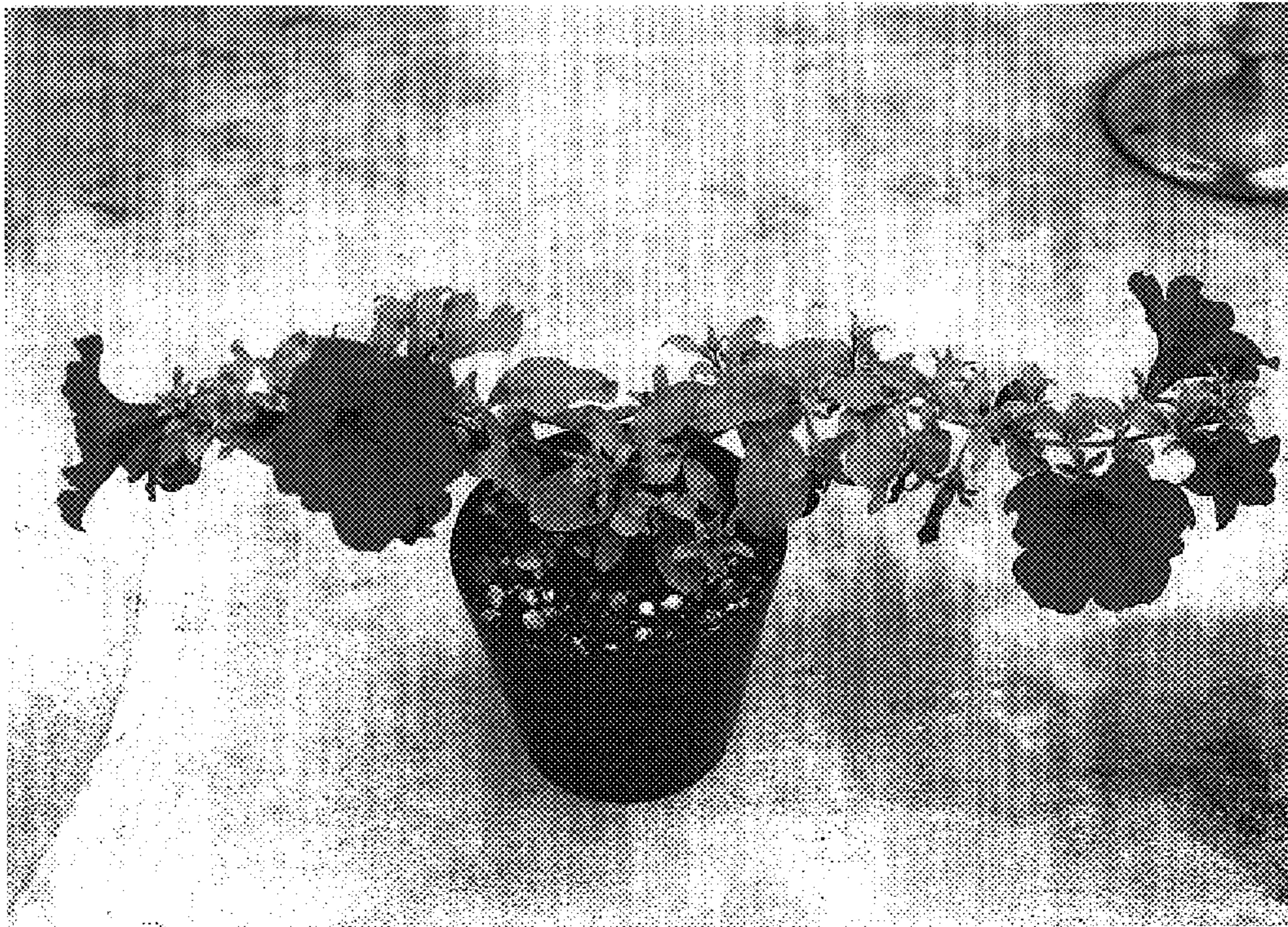


Fig.2

