

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

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(54) **ALTERNANTHERA PLANT NAMED  
'GRENADINE'**

(50) Latin Name: *Alternanthera ficoidea*  
Varietal Denomination: **Grenadine**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Alternanthera* plant named  
'Grenadine', characterized by its upright and outwardly  
spreading plant habit; freely basal branching habit; bushy  
and dense growth habit; and brown and red purple  
bi-colored leaves.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: *Alternanthera ficoidea*.  
Cultivar denomination: 'Grenadine'.

#### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is co-pending with the following  
related applications:

*Alternanthera* Plant Named 'Cognac'.

*Alternanthera* Plant Named 'Creme de Menthe'.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-  
var of *Alternanthera* plant, botanically known as *Alternan-*  
*thera ficoidea*, and hereinafter referred to by the name  
'Grenadine'.

The new *Alternanthera* was discovered in December,  
2002, by the Inventor in a controlled environment in  
Chamblee, Ga., as a naturally-occurring branch mutation of  
the *Alternanthera ficoidea* cultivar Partytime, disclosed in  
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,789. The cultivar Grenadine was  
selected by the Inventor on the basis of its unique foliage  
coloration.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by vegetative  
cuttings in Chamblee, Ga., since January, 2003, has shown  
that the unique features of this new *Alternanthera* are stable  
and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Grenadine 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 'Grena-  
dine'. These characteristics in combination distinguish  
'Grenadine' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit; bushy and dense growth habit.
3. Brown and red purple bi-colored leaves.

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Plants of the new *Alternanthera* can be compared to  
plants of the parent, the cultivar Partytime. In side-by-side  
comparisons conducted in Chamblee, Ga., plants of the new  
*Alternanthera* differed from plants of the cultivar Partytime  
primarily in foliage coloration as plants of the cultivar  
Partytime had green, creamy white and red purple-colored  
leaves.

Plants of the new *Alternanthera* can also be compared to  
plants of the cultivars Cognac, disclosed in U.S. Plant patent  
application Ser. No. 11/022,012, and Creme de Menthe,  
disclosed in U.S. Plant Patent application Ser. No. 11/022,  
001. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Chamblee,  
Ga., plants of the new *Alternanthera* differed from plants of  
the cultivars Cognac and Creme de Menthe primarily in leaf  
coloration as plants of the cultivar Cognac had dark purplish  
brown-colored leaves and plants of the cultivar Creme de  
Menthe had green and pale yellow bi-colored leaves.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the  
unique appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-  
ductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ  
from the color values cited in the detailed botanical descrip-  
tion which accurately describe the colors of the new *Alter-*  
*nanthera*. The photograph is a top perspective view of a  
typical plants of 'Grenadine' grown in a container.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition,  
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-  
cance are used. Plants used in the aforementioned photo-  
graph and in the following description were grown in  
Atlanta, Ga. during the summer in an outdoor nursery and  
under conditions which closely approximate commercial  
production conditions. During the production of the plants,  
day temperatures ranged from 80 to 90° F. and night

temperatures ranged from 60 to 75° F. Plants were about four months old when the photograph and description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Alternanthera ficoidea* cultivar Grenadine.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring branch mutation of the *Alternanthera ficoidea* cultivar Partytime, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,789 .

Propagation:

*Type cutting.*—By vegetative cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About 5 days at 80 to 90° F.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About 10 days at 65 to 80° F.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner, summer.*—About 21 days at 80 to 90° F.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner, winter.*—About 35 days at 65 to 80° F.

*Root description.*—Fine, fibrous; off-white in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching.

Plant description:

*Form/growth habit.*—Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit; vigorous.

*Plant height, soil level to top of plant plane.*—About 21 cm.

*Plant diameter or area of spread.*—About 23 cm.

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching, about 16 lateral branches per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch formation; dense and bushy growth habit.

*Basal branches.*—Length: About 19 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 4.2 cm. Tex-

ture: Fine pubescence; longitudinally ridged. Strength: Moderately strong; flexible. Color: Close to 61A.

*Foliage description.*—Arrangement: Opposite, simple.

Length: About 6 cm. Width: About 3.3 cm. Shape:

Ovate. Apex: Acute to acuminate. Base: Obtuse to slightly cordate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly pubescent; slightly rugose.

Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Veinal areas, close to 61A; interveinal, close to 200A. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Veinal areas, close to 61A; interveinal, close to 187A.

Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 61A.

Petiole: Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent.

Color, upper and lower surfaces: 61A to 61B.

Flower description: Flower development has not been observed on plants of the new *Alternanthera*.

Disease/pest resistance: Under commercial production conditions, plants of the new *Alternanthera* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Alternanthera* .

Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Alternanthera* have been shown to be tolerant to rain, wind and to temperatures ranging from 32 to more than 100° F.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Alternanthera* plant named 'Grenadine', as illustrated and described.

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