US00PP16732P2

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

(10) **Patent No.: US PP16,732 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 27, 2006**

(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'BALSUNLAVIM'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Balsunlavim**

(75) Inventor: **Kerry M. Strope**, Jefferson City, MO (US)

(73) Assignee: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 79 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/022,719**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 27, 2004**

(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.

Primary Examiner—Anne Marie Grunberg
Assistant Examiner—Annette H Para
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named 'Balsunlavim' characterized by its single type purple-colored flowers, dark green-colored foliage, and vigorous, mounded, and trailing growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Latin name of the genus and species of plant claimed: *Petunia hybrida.*

Variety denomination: 'Balsunlavim'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant botanically known as *Petunia hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balsunlavim'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program during April 2002 at Arroyo Grande, Calif. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Petunia* cultivars with single type flowers of unique colors and vigorous, mounded, and trailing growth habits.

The female (seed) parent of 'Balsunlavim' was the proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection designated 979-2, not patented, which exhibits a trailing habit and single type pink-colored flowers. The male (pollen) parent of 'Balsunlavim' was the *Petunia* cultivar Kakegawa S57, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,007, which exhibits a trailing growth habit, dark green-colored foliage, pale purple-colored flowers. The new cultivar was discovered and selected by the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during October 2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since October 2002 at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and West Chicago, Ill., has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish 'Balsunlavim' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant:

1. Single type purple-colored flowers.
2. Dark green-colored foliage.
3. Good branching character.
4. Vigorous, mounded, and trailing growth habit.

2

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in flower color and from the male parent primarily in growth habit.

Of the many *Petunia* cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar to the new cultivar is the cultivar Kakegawa S57, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,007. However, in side-by-side comparisons, flowers of the new cultivar differ from plants of 'Kakegawa S57' in the following characteristics:

1. The plants of the new cultivar have longer peduncles than plants of 'Kakegawa S57'.
2. The flowers of the new cultivar are bluer in color than the flowers of 'Kakegawa S57'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of 'Balsunlavim'. The plants were grown in 10 cm pots for 12 weeks in a greenhouse at West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. **1** illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Balsunlavim'.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close-up view of a single flower of 'Balsunlavim'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length without, however, any variation in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined on Oct. 15, 2004 between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. under natural daylight conditions.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a double polycarbonate-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in 10 cm pots for 12 weeks utilizing a soil-less growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 55°–75° F. (13°–24° C.) during the day and approximately 50°–60° F. (10°–16° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels were maintained at approximately 5,000–8,000 footcandles during the day.

Botanical classification: *Petunia×hybrida* cultivar Balsunlavim.

Parentage:

Female (seed) parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* breeding selection designated 539A, not patented.

Male (pollen) parent.—*Petunia* cultivar Kakegawa S57, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,007.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 6 to 9 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 30 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Approximately 6 to 8 weeks are required to produce a finished plant from rooted cuttings.

Habit of growth.—Vigorous and freely branching. Pinching improves basal branching.

Form.—Initially upright, becoming mounded and cascading as it matures.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 18 cm from top of soil to top of plant plane. Diameter (area of spread) — Approximately 35 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity: An average of 4 branches per plant develop after pinching. Length: Approximately 25 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.6 mm. Texture: Velutinous. Color: 144A. Internode length at the middle of the branch: Approximately 2.2 cm.

Foliage.—Quantity per lateral branch: Approximately 19. Type: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate/Opposite. Angle to stem: Right angle. Shape: Ovate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Obtuse. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Leaf length: Approximately 6 cm. Leaf width: Approximately 4 cm. Texture: Upper and lower surfaces: Puberulent. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Slightly more yellow than 147A with venation closest to 146C. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to 147B with venation closest to 146C. Petiole length: Approximately 3.5 mm. Petiole diameter: Approximately 2.9 mm. Petiole texture: Velutinous. Petiole color: Closest to 145A.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year round in greenhouse environment.

Quantity of flowers.—Approximately 9 fully open flowers per plant.

Lastingness of individual bloom.—Approximately 4–5 days.

Flower description:

Type.—Single, solitary, salverform, indeterminate and persistent. Fragrance: Pungent.

Size.—Length (height): Approximately 6.3 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.9 cm.

Flower bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2–3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Shape: Oblong. Length at first color: Approximately 5.4 cm. Diameter at tip at first color: Approximately 1.1 cm. Diameter at base at first color: Approximately 4.6 mm. Texture: Villous. Color: 76A.

Corolla.—Approximately 5 petals fused to form corolla tube. Petal shape: Obovate. Petal apex: Cuspidate. Petal margin: Entire. Petal length from throat: 2.8 cm. Petal width at widest point: 3.1 cm. Petal texture: Glabrous. Color of upper surface: Closest to but pinker than N81C. Color of lower surface: Lighter than N81D with mid-vein of 144C.

Corolla tube.—Length: Approximately 3.6 cm. Diameter at distal end: Approximately 9.4 mm. Diameter at proximal end: Approximately 3.6 mm. Texture: Outer surface: Villous. Inner surface: Glabrous. Color of outer surface: 145D with venation of 145B. Color of inner surface: 154D with venation of 79A.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Angle to the stem: Acute. Length: Approximately 4.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.2 mm. Texture: Villous. Color: 144A.

Calyx.—Formed by five, non-imbricate sepals, fused at base. Sepal shape: Linear. Sepal apex: Obtuse. Sepal margin: Entire, pubescent. Length: Approximately 2.1 cm. Width: Approximately 4.4 mm. Texture of both surfaces: Villous. Color of upper surface: 143A. Color of lower surface: 143B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamen quantity: Approximately 5. Stamen length: Approximately 2.6 cm. Filament length: Approximately 1.5 cm. Filament color: 155C. Anther shape: Oval, bi-lobed. Anther length: Approximately 1.6 mm. Anther color: N187D. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 76D. Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 3.3 cm. Stigma shape: Funnel. Stigma length: Approximately 2.8 mm. Stigma color: N92C. Style length: Approximately 2.4 cm. Style color: 194B with overlay of 86B. Ovary size: Approximately 6 mm. Ovary color: 144C.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Petunias* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'Balsunlavim', substantially as herein shown and described.

* * * * *

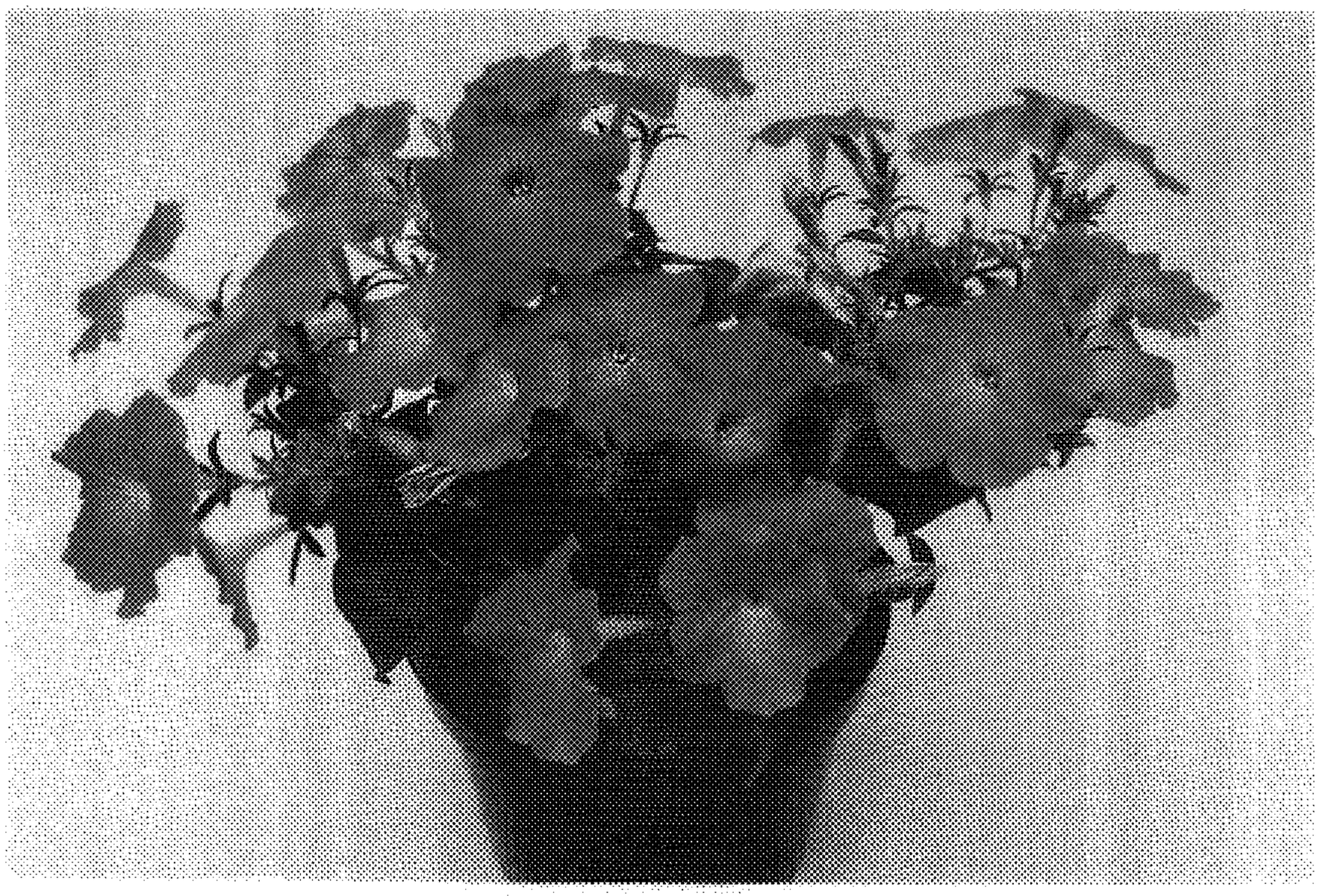

FIG. 1

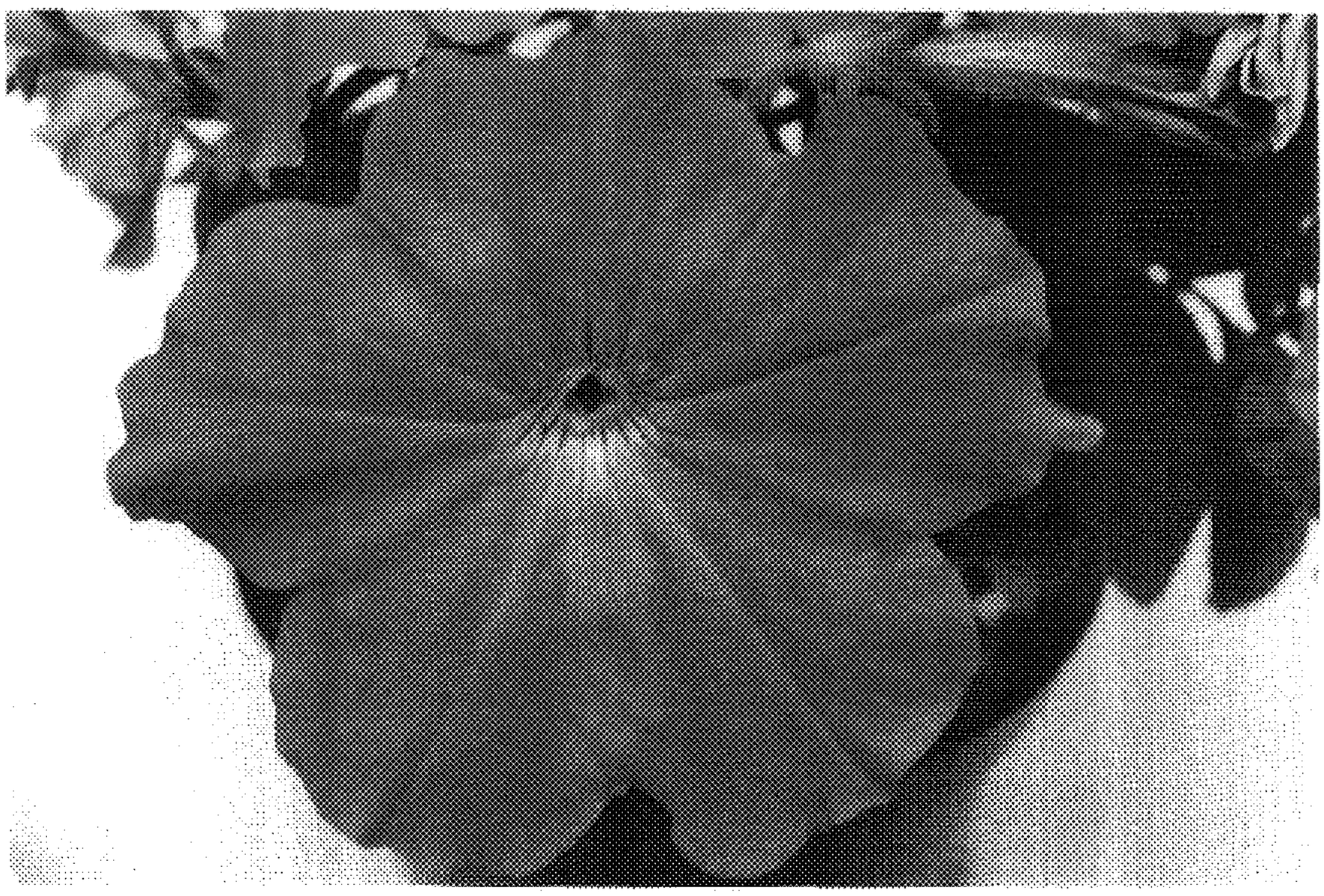

FIG. 2