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Brown

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(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED ‘MP221’**

(50) Latin Name: *Petunia*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **MP221**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./356**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named
‘MP221’, characterized by its compact, low mounding and
outwardly spreading plant habit; freely branching and vig-
orous growth habit; numerous small light purple-colored
flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘MP221’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Petunia* plant, botanically known as *Petunia*×*hybrida*,
and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name MP221.

The new *Petunia* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Cobbitty, New South
Wales, Australia. The objective of the breeding program is to
create outwardly spreading *Petunias* with numerous small
flowers with attractive flower colors.

The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination
made by the Inventor in December, 2001 of a proprietary
Petunia×*hybrida* selection identified as X01.169.1, not
patented, as the female, or seed parent, with the *Petunia*×
hybrida cultivar X00-155-1, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No.
15,456, as the male, or pollen parent. The new *Petunia* was
selected as a single plant from the resulting progeny of the
cross-pollination by the Inventor in a controlled environ-
ment in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia in October,
2002.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by vegetative
cuttings in Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia since
October, 2002, has shown that the unique features of this
new *Petunia* are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar MP221 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 ‘MP221’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘MP221’ as
a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Compact, low mounding and outwardly spreading plant
habit.

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2. Freely branching and vigorous growth habit.
3. Numerous small light purple-colored flowers.
4. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Petunia* differ primarily from plants of
the parents in petal coloration as plants of the female parent
selection have pure white-colored petals and plants of the
male parent have lavender-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the
cultivar MP-21, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,818. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted in Cobbitty, New South
Wales, Australia, plants of the new *Petunia* differed prima-
rily from plants of the cultivar MP-21 in petal coloration as
plants of the cultivar MP-21 had pure white-colored petals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall 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 photographs may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Petunia.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a
side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of
‘MP221’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a
close-up view of typical leaves and flowers of ‘MP221’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observa-
tions and measurements describe plants grown in Lompoc,
Calif., under commercial practice during the winter and
early spring in a polycarbonate-covered greenhouse with
day temperatures ranging from 21 to 24° C., night tempera-
tures ranging from 16 to 18° C., and light levels ranging
from 5,000 to 9,000 foot candles. Plants were grown for
about 14 weeks with one plant per 14-cm container. Plants
were pinched once about three weeks after planting. In the
following description, color references are made to The
Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition,

except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Petunia×hybrida* cultivar MP221.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Petunia×hybrida* selection identified as X01.169.1, not patented.

Male parent.—*Petunia×hybrida* cultivar X00-155-1, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,456.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About two weeks at 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three to four weeks at 22° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:

Form.—Annual flowering plant; indeterminate; initially upright, then low mounding and outwardly spreading; compact. Vigorous growth habit. Freely basal branching habit with about five main lateral branches per plant with lateral branches potentially forming at every node.

Usage.—Appropriate for hanging baskets, window boxes, patio containers and landscape applications.

Plant height.—About 12 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 45 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 29 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 2 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement, before flowering: Alternate, simple. Arrangement, when flowering: Opposite, simple. Length: About 2.7 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly glandular, viscid; pubescent. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 137A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 146B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 146A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 146B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 146B. Petiole length: About 7 mm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly pubescent. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: 146B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Small salverform flowers; flowers face upward or outward; single, axillary. Freely flowering, typically about twelve open flowers per lateral stem.

Natural flowering season.—Long day responsive; spring until frost in the autumn; flowering continuous during the flowering period.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About four to five days; flowers persistent.

Fragrance.—Floral, sweet.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 3.4 cm. Tube length: About 2.4 cm. Throat diameter, distal end: About 8 mm. Tube diameter, proximal end: About 3 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.8 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Elongated oblong with ruffled apices. Color: 145C.

Corolla.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five petals, fused into flared trumpet with distinct clefts between petal lobes. Petal lobe length: About 1.2 cm. Petal lobe width: About 1.5 cm. Petal shape: Fan-shaped. Petal apex: Rounded. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, satiny. Color: Petal, when opening, upper surface: 76B; towards the margins, 75A. Petal, when opening, lower surface: 76D. Petal, fully opened, upper surface: 155D overlain with 76B; towards the margins, 75A; color becoming more white, close to 155D, with development. Petal, fully opened, lower surface: 155D. Flower throat (inside): 83C. Flower tube (outside): Towards the base, 79B; towards the petal lobes, 79D. Venation, upper petal surface: 157C. Venation, lower petal surface: 195A. Venation, throat: 79B. Venation, tube: 79B.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals fused at base, star-shaped; slightly recurved. Length: About 9 mm. Width: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Linear. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 146A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 1.25 mm. Angle: Almost 90° to the stem. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower; stamens adnate to corolla tube. Anther shape: Ovoid. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: 91A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 202B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 2 cm. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma color: 147A. Style length: About 1.6 cm. Style color: 145C. Ovary color: 144A.

Fruit/seed.—Fruit and seed production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Petunia*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to rain, wind and temperatures ranging from -5 to 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'MP221', as illustrated and described.

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