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PETUNIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNSURFBV'

Latin Name: *Petunia×hybrida* Varietal Denomination: Sunsurfby

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(57)**ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Petunia plant named 'Sunsurfby', characterized by its compact, outwardly spreading, mounded and decumbent plant habit; vigorous and freely branching growth habit; freely flowering habit; light lavender-colored flowers with purple-colored venation; long flowering period; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida*. Cultivar denomination: 'Sunsurfby'.

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 Sunsurfby.

The new Petunia is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventors in Higashiomi, Shiga, 10 characteristics: Japan. The objective of the breeding program is to create new outwardly spreading *Petunias* with large and attractive flowers.

The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventors in August, 2001, of the *Petunia* 15 cornuta Celebrity Burgundy, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of Petunia cornuta identified as code number P55h, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Petunia* was selected as a single plant from the resulting progeny of the cross-pollination by 20 parent selection in the following characteristics: the Inventors in a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since September, 2003 has shown that the unique ²⁵ features of this new *Petunia* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Sunsurfby 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 variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Sunsurfby'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Sunsurfby' as a new and distinct *Petunia* cultivar:

1. Compact, outwardly spreading, mounded and decumbent plant habit.

- 2. Vigorous and freely branching growth habit.
- 3. Freely flowering habit.
- 4. Lavender-colored flowers with purple-colored venation.
- 5. Long flowering period.
- 6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Petunia* differ from plants of the female parent, the cultivar Celebrity Burgundy, in the following

- 1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more decumbent than plants of the cultivar Celebrity Burgundy.
- 2. Plants of the new *Petunia* are shorter than plants of the cultivar Celebrity Burgundy.
- 3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the cultivar Celebrity Burgundy differ in flower color as plants of the cultivar Celebrity Burgundy have red purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* differ from plants of the male

- 1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more outwardly spreading than plants of the male parent selection.
- 2. Plants of the new Petunia have larger flowers than plants of the male parent selection.
- 3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the male parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the male parent selection have white-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,341. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new Petunia differed from plants of the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein in the following characteristics:

- 1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were smaller than plants of the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein.
- 2. Plants of the new *Petunia* had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein.
- 3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein differed in petal coloration as plants of the cultivar Revolution Pinkvein had pink-colored petals.

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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 reproductions 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 top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunsurfby' grown in a container.

the photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical flowers of 'Sunsurfby'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, in 15-cm containers for about four months in an outdoor nursery during the early summer with day temperatures about 23° C. and night temperatures about 13° C. Plants were pinched one time. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Petunia*×*hybrida* cultivar Sunsurfbv.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Petunia cornuta cultivar Celebrity Burgundy, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of Petunia cornuta identified as code number P55h, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one week at 20° C. to 25° C.

Time to develop roots.—About three weeks at 20° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous, fleshy; light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Annual flowering plant; indeterminate; compact, outwardly spreading, mounded and decumbent plant habit. Viscid and glandular pubescent. Vigorous growth habit. Freely branching habit with lateral branches developing potentially at every node.

Plant height.—About 12.4 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 52.6 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 23.2 cm. Diameter: About 2.1 mm. Internode length: About 1.7 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 4.5 cm. Width: About 2.5 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire; undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; viscid. Venation pattern: Pinnate; reticu-

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late. Color: Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, close to 144B. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147A; venation, close to 144B. Petiole length: About 3 mm. Petiole diameter: About 1.4 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Viscid. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: 144B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single salverform flowers; flowers face mostly upward or outward; axillary. Flowers not persistent. Freely flowering habit with about 79 flowers and flower buds per plant.

Natural flowering season.—Long flowering period, plants flower from spring through late autumn in Japan; flowering continuous during this period.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About five days.

Fragrance.—Moderate.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 5.7 cm. Length: About 4.2 cm. Throat diameter (distal): About 1.1 cm. Tube diameter (proximal): About 2.7 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 3.5 cm. Diameter: About 5.7 mm. Shape: Cylindrical. Color: N92A; towards the apex, 150D.

Corolla.—Quantity/arrangement: Five petals; fused, funnelform. Petal length: About 2.7 cm. Petal width: About 2.7 cm. Petal shape: Very broadly obovate. Petal apex: Obtuse. Petal margin: Entire; undulate. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth; satiny. Color: Petal, when developing, upper and lower surfaces: N155B; venation, 83A. Petal, fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 77D; venation, 83A. Flower throat (inside): 83A. Flower tube (outside): 83A.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals fused at base, star-shaped calyx. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: About 3.2 mm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 137B. Color, lower surface: 137C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3.4 cm. Width: About 1 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Pubescent; viscid. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Five per flower. Anther shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther length: About 2.3 mm. Anther color: 94D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 98B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1.6 cm. Style length: About 1.3 cm. Style color: 144D. Stigma shape: Ellipsoidal. Stigma color: 144A. Ovary color: 144A.

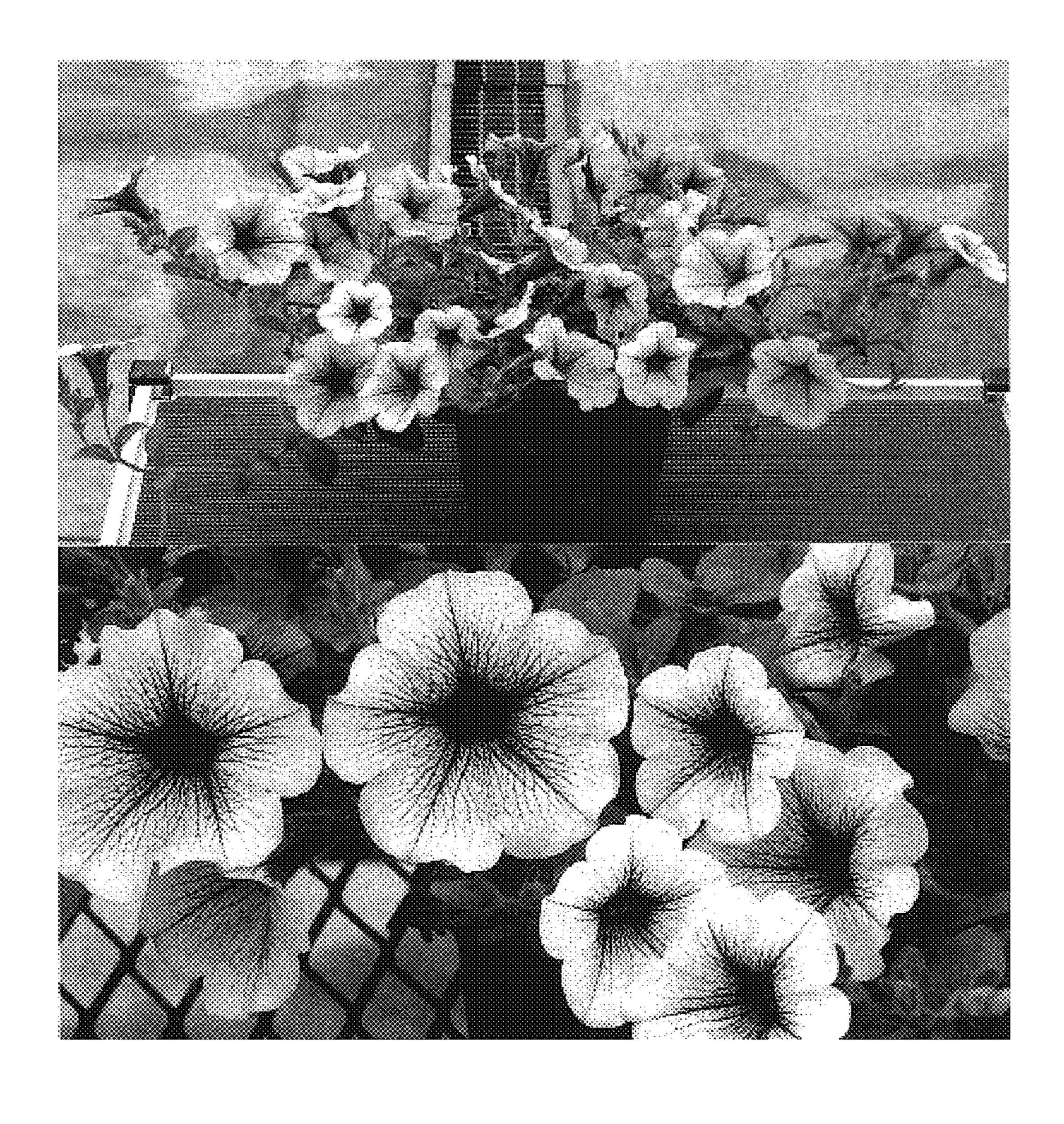
Seeds.—Seed development has not been observed.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate rain, wind and tolerated temperatures from 0° to 35° C. It is claimed:

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

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May 15, 2007