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Oud

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(54) *PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED ‘PETNITBL’
(50) Latin Name: *Petunia hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Petnitbl**
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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 ‘Petnitbl’
characterized by its trailing, outwardly spreading and
mounded plant habit, freely branching habit, freely flower-
ing habit, single flowers that are very dark blue in color, and
good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Petunia hybrida.
Varietal denomination: ‘Petnitbl’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Petunia* plant botanically known as *Petunia hybrida* and
referred to by the cultivar name ‘Petnitbl’.
The new *Petunia* is the product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the inventor in Enkhuizen, Nether-
lands. The new *Petunia* cultivar is freely flowering with trail-
ing and spreading plant habit and attractive leaf and flower
coloration.
The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination made
by the inventor in August 2000 of a proprietary selection of
Petunia hybrida identified as code number ‘Y1003’ not
patented, as the female, or seed parent, with a proprietary
selection of *Petunia hybrida* identified as code number
‘Z4120,’ 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 in a controlled environment
in Enkhuizen, Netherlands in June 2001.
Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal veg-
etative cuttings since June 2001, in Enkhuizen, Netherlands
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 ‘Petnitbl’ have not been observed
under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype
may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity and daylength without, however,
any variance in genotype.
The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Petnitbl.’
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Petnitbl’
as a new and distinct cultivar:

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1. Trailing, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit
 2. Freely branching habit
 3. Freely flowering habit
 4. Single flowers that are very dark velvet like blue in
color
 5. Good garden performance
- In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Enkhuizen,
Netherlands, plants of the new *Petunia* named ‘Petnitbl’ dif-
fered from plants of the female parent selection in the fol-
lowing characteristic:
1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are slightly mounded whereas
plants of the female parent selection are very flat and
trailing.
- In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Enkhuizen,
Netherlands, plants of the new *Petunia* differed from plants
of the male parent selection in the following characteristic:
1. Plants of the new *Petunia* have medium size flowers
whereas flowers of the male parent selection are very
big.

TABLE 1

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEW CULTIVAR ‘PETNITBL’ AND A SIMILAR CULTIVAR		
	‘Petnitbl’	<i>Petunia hybrida</i> ‘Sunblu’ (Not patented)
Flower color	Darker blue	Lighter, more purple
Flower shape	Petals more round at edge	Petals more pointed at edge
Plant habit	Longer branches more trailing	Shorter branches, less trailing
Earliness	Later	Earlier

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates 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 photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Petunia*.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The observations and measurements describe plants grown in Enkhuizen, The Netherlands, practice circumstances indoor in hanging baskets of diameter 25 cm during the early Spring with day temperatures ranging from 14 to 16° C., night temperatures ranging from 12 to 14° C. Plants used for the photographs and description were about 10 weeks from planting rooted cuttings.

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.

The plant:

Classification.—Botanical: *Petunia hybrida*.

Parentage.—Female parent: Proprietary selection of *Petunia hybrida* identified as code number 'Y1003,' not patented. Male parent: Proprietary selection of *Petunia hybrida* identified as code number 'Z4120,' not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer and winter: About 12 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots, summer.—About 21 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots, winter.—About 28 days at 16° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Form.—Annual flowering plant; indeterminate; initially upright, then trailing and outwardly spreading; uniformly mounded plant form. Freely branching habit; about six to eight basal branches each with about six to eight lateral branches. Pinching enhances development of lateral branches.

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

Plant height.—About 16 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 37 cm.

Vigor.—Vigorous; rapid growth rate.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 18 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 2–2.5 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144C (with some anthocyanin).

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate before flowering; opposite after flowers develop; simple. Length: About 5.5 cm. Width: About 2.3 cm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent; glandular. Venation pattern: Pinnate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 147A. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 147A. Venation, upper surface: 144A. Venation, lower surface: 147C. Vein color, upper surface: 144A. Vein color, lower surface: 147C. Petiole length: About 1.3 cm. Petiole diameter: About 3 mm. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: 146C. Petiole texture: Sparsely pubescent.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Single salverform flowers; flowers face mostly upward and outward; axillary. Freely flowering habit, about two to three open flowers and about three flower buds per lateral branch at a time.

Natural flowering season.—Long day responsive; long flowering period, spring until frost in the autumn; flowering continuous during this period. Plants start flowering about eight weeks after planting rooted cuttings. Flowers persistent.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About seven to ten days.

Fragrance.—Faint, sweet.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 5 cm. Tube length: About 3.5 cm. Depth: 4 cm. Throat diameter, middle: About 1.2 cm. Tube diameter, in the middle: About 1 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 4.5 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Elongated oblong with ruffled apices. Color, basal part: More grey than 79A.

Petals.—Quantity/arrangement: About five petals fused in a single whorl, funnel form. Length from throat: About 2.3 cm. Width: About 2.3 cm. Shape: Roughly fan-shaped. Apex: Broadly acute. Margin: Entire, undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, velvety.

Color.—When opening, upper surface: The shade is 86A but the flower color is much deeper, velvet like. Venation N92A. When opening, lower surface: 86A, Venation N92A. Fully opened, upper surface: The shade is 86A but the flower color is much deeper, velvet like. Venation N92A. Fully opened, lower surface: 86A, venation N92A. Flower throat (inside): Darker than N92A, color of veins is the same. Flower tube (outside): Vein color is N92A with some small spots of 86A between the veins. Venation, tube: N92A.

Sepals.—Arrangement/appearance: Single whorl of five sepals fused at base, star-shaped. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 147A. Color, lower surface: 147B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3 cm. Width: About 0.1 cm. Angle: About 45 to 60° from the stem. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A with some anthocyanin.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens, quantity per flower: About five. Anther shape: Ovoid. Anther size: About 1 mm by 1 mm. Anther color: 97A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 97A. Pistils, quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2 cm. Style length: About 1.7 cm. Style color: 144D base, top N77. Stigma shape: Anvil-shaped. Stigma color: 148A. Ovary color: 145A. Seed/fruit: Seed and/or fruit production has not been observed.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance. Plants of the new *Petunia* have been noted to tolerate rain, wind, and temperatures from 0 to 30° C.

What is claimed is:

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

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