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Kientzler

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(54) **NEW GUINEA *IMPATIENS* PLANT NAMED 'KIE273'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Impatiens hawkeri***
Varietal Denomination: **KIE273**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens* plant named 'KIE273', characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit; dark green-colored leaves; freely flowering habit; and white-colored flowers with red purple-colored centers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Impatiens hawkeri.*
Cultivar denomination: 'KIE273'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens* plant, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri,* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'KIE273'.

The new *Impatiens* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Gensingen, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new *Impatiens* cultivars with numerous large flowers and attractive foliage and flower coloration.

The new *Impatiens* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in October, 2000, of the *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Improved Samoa, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,138, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of the *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 00-203, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar KIE273 was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Gensingen, Germany in April, 2001.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings propagated in a controlled environment in Gensingen, Germany since May, 2001 has shown that the unique features of this new *Impatiens* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar KIE273 has 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 'KIE273'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'KIE273' as a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea *Impatiens:*

1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit.
3. Dark green-colored leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. White-colored flowers with red purple-colored centers that are positioned above and beyond the foliage.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new *Impatiens* differed from plants of the female parent, the cultivar Improved Samoa, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Impatiens* were more compact than plants of the cultivar Improved Samoa.
2. Plants of the new *Impatiens* were more freely branching than plants of the cultivar Improved Samoa.
3. Plants of the new *Impatiens* had darker green-colored leaves than plants of the cultivar Improved Samoa.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new *Impatiens* differed from plants of the male parent selection primarily in leaf color as plants of the new *Impatiens* had darker green-colored leaves than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Impatiens* can be compared to plants of the New Guinea *Impatiens* cultivar BSR-202, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,538. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Gensingen, Germany, plants of the new *Impatiens* differed from plants of the cultivar BSR-202 in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Impatiens* and the cultivar BSR-202 differed in foliage color.
2. Plants of the new *Impatiens* and the cultivar BSR-202 differed in flower color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Impatiens*. The photographs show 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 *Impatiens*.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'KIE273' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers of 'KIE273'.

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 significance are used. The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Encinitas, Calif. during the spring in containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial New Guinea *Impatiens* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 24° C., night temperatures averaged 19° C. and light levels averaged 4,000 foot candles. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Single plants were grown in one-gallon containers and were about 13 weeks old when the photographs and the detailed description were taken.

Botanical classification:

Impatiens hawkeri cultivar KIE273.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Improved Samoa, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,138.

Male, or pollen parent.—Proprietary selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as code number 00-203, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 14 days at 23° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 17 days at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 21 days at 23° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 24 days at 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; white to brown color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.

Growth and branching habit.—Moderately vigorous and freely branching habit; about twelve lateral branches developing at the base; dense and bushy growth habit. Pinching, that is, removal of the terminal apices, is typically not required, but will enhance branching.

Plant height.—About 17 cm.

Plant diameter or spread.—About 32 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 11 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 2.2 cm to 2.4 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 183A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite or in whorls, simple.

Length.—About 11.5 cm.

Width.—About 3.5 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Serrulate with ciliation.

Texture, upper surface.—Slightly pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing foliage, upper surface: 147B. Developing foliage, lower surface: 183A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 183B. Fully expanded foliage, length surface: 183A; venation, 183A.

Petiole.—Length: About 2.5 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 185B.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single axillary flowers. Freely flowering habit; usually about 15 to 20 flowers developing per lateral branch. Flowers positioned above the foliage and typically face upright or outward. Flowers last about one week under greenhouse conditions. Petals self-cleaning, gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering from spring until fall in Germany. Plants begin flowering about eight to twelve weeks after planting.

Flower size.—Length: About 4.5 cm. Width: About 4.3 cm. Depth: About 2.3 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.4 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Ovoid; pointed. Color: 55B to 55C.

Petals.—Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower in a single whorl. Length, banner petal: About 2.2 cm. Length, lateral petals: About 2.3 cm. Length, lower petals: About 2.4 cm. Width, banner petal: About 3.4 cm. Width, lateral petals: About 2.5 cm. Width, lower petals: About 2.8 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Emarginate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Color: When opening, upper surface: 56D. When opening, lower surface: 155D; radiating pattern from the base, 55A to 55B; central stripe, 53C. Fully opened, upper surface: 155D; towards the base, 63A; central stripe, 55A. Fully opened, lower surface: 155D; radiating pattern from the base, 55A to 55B; central stripe, 53C.

Sepals.—Quantity/arrangement: Three; one modified into an elongated spur. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 145A. Spur length: About 4.7 cm. Spur diameter: At flower, about 2 mm; at apex, less than 1 mm. Spur texture: Smooth, glabrous. Spur color: 145B to 145C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: About 30° to 40° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 146C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Five fused at anthers; filaments free. Anther size: About 3 mm by 4 mm. Anther color: 162D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 158B. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma color: 183D. Style color: 185A. Ovary color: 145A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit production have not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Impatiens* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to New Guinea *Impatiens*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Impatiens* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 16° C. to about 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct New Guinea *Impatiens* plant named 'KIE273' as illustrated and described.

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