



US00PP19801P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,801 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 10, 2009**

(54) **BEGONIA PLANT NAMED 'BBVOLFU'**

(50) Latin Name: *Begonia*×*hiemalis*
Varietal Denomination: **BBVOLFU**

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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.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/074,615**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 5, 2008**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./345**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./345**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia* plant named
'BBVOLFU', characterized by its compact, upright and
mounded plant habit; freely branching habit; numerous
double flowers that are pale yellow to white in color and held
above the foliage; and good postproduction longevity.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Begonia*×*hiemalis*.
Cultivar denomination: 'BBVOLFU'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Begonia* plant, botanically known as *Begonia*×*hiemalis*,
commercially known as *Elatior Begonia*, and hereinafter
referred to by the name 'BBVOLFU'.

The new *Begonia* is a naturally-occurring whole plant
mutation of the *Begonia*×*hiemalis* cultivar BBVOLBRO,
disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,390. The new *Begonia*
was discovered and selected by the Inventor from within a
population of plants of the cultivar BBVOLBRO in a con-
trolled environment in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands during
the summer of 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Begonia* by cuttings in a
controlled environment in a greenhouse in Rijsenhout, the
Netherlands since the summer of 2005, has shown that the
unique features of this new *Begonia* are stable and repro-
duced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar BBVOLFU has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as
temperature, daylength 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
'BBVOLFU'. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish 'BBVOLFU' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Begonia*:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Numerous double flowers that are pale yellow to white
in color and held above the foliage.
4. Good postproduction longevity.

Plants of the new *Begonia* differ primarily from plants of
the parent, the cultivar BBVOLBRO, in flower form and
flower color as plants of the cultivar BBVOLBRO have

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fewer tepals per flower and have light yellow and red
bi-colored tepals.

Plants of the new *Begonia* can also be compared to plants
of the cultivar *Genie Fantasy*, not patented. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands,
plants of the new *Begonia* differed from plants of the cultivar
Genie Fantasy in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Begonia* had more tepals per flower
than plants of the cultivar *Genie Fantasy*.
2. Plants of the new *Begonia* and the cultivar *Genie Fan-
tasy* differed in flower color as plants of the cultivar
Genie Fantasy had yellow-colored flowers with reddish
pink-colored margins.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new *Begonia*, 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
Begonia. The photograph comprises a side perspective view
of a typical flowering plant of 'BBVOLFU' grown in a con-
tainer.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition,
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-
cance are used. Plants used for the aforementioned photo-
graph and following observations and measurements were
grown in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands in 13-cm containers
and under commercial practice in a glass-covered green-
house during the spring and summer. During the production
of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 15° C.
to 20° C. and light levels were about 18,000 lux. Plants used
for the photograph and the description were about three
months from planting.

Botanical classification: *Begonia* × *hiemalis* cultivar BBVOLFU.

Commercial classification: *Elatior Begonia*.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Begonia* × *hiemalis* cultivar BBVOLBRO, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,390.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About two weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About three to five weeks at temperatures of about 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; plants of the new *Begonia* have not been observed to form tubers.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Compact, upright and mounded plant habit, inverted triangle; freely branching with good stem and stem base strength. Flowers are double and abundant. Moderate growth rate.

Plant height.—About 20 cm.

Plant width.—About 20 cm to 25 cm.

Basal branch description.—Quantity: Freely basal branching with about five to six basal branches developing per plant. Length: About 8 cm to 13 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm to 3 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Simple, alternate. Length: About 6 cm. Width: About 5 cm. Shape: Roughly cordate. Apex: Acute. Base: Cordate to oblique. Margin: Serrate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Venation pattern: Palmate. Color: Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 133A; venation, N138A. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 136A; venation, N138A. Petiole length: About 4 cm to 6 cm. Petiole diameter: About 4 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: N138A.

Flower description:

Flowering habit.—Double flowers with numerous tepals arranged in axillary cymes. Usually six to eight open flowers per cyme. Many cymes in flower simultaneously. Flowers positioned upright and outwardly above the foliage. Flowers not fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Plants will flower continuously year round in the greenhouse, however plants

flower earlier and more abundantly during the summer in The Netherlands. Good postproduction longevity, flowers last about four weeks on the plant. Flowers persistent.

Cyme height.—About 4 cm to 5 cm.

Cyme diameter.—About 5 cm to 7 cm.

Flowers.—Shape: Oval; rose-like. Diameter: About 4 cm to 5 cm. Depth (height): About 1 cm.

Flower buds.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: About 1 cm to 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 cm. Color: Close to 157C.

Tepals.—Arrangement: Rosette. Quantity per flower: Usually about 10 to 15 per flower. Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Width: About 3 cm to 4 cm. Shape: Obovate to rounded. Apex: Rounded, obtuse. Base: Orbicular. Margin: Entire, undulate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 3C. Fully opened, upper surface: 155C; color becoming closer to N155C with development; towards the margin, faint, close to 46D. Fully opened, lower surface: 155A; towards the margin, close to 46D.

Flower bracts.—Quantity/arrangement: Two, opposite. Shape: Broadly cordate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144B.

Peduncles.—Angle: Erect to about 30° to 45° from vertical. Length: About 4 cm to 5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm to 4 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B.

Pedicels.—Angle: About 30° to 45° from the peduncle. Length: About 2 cm to 3 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 3 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 146C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: None observed. Pistils: None observed.

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

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Begonia* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 10° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Begonia* plant named 'BBVOLFU' as illustrated and described.

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