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Klemm

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(54) ***PETUNIA* PLANT NAMED 'KLEPH06126'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Petunia×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **KLEPH06126**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant named 'KLEPH06126', characterized by its outwardly spreading to trailing growth habit; freely branching habit; freely flowering habit; double red purple-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Petunia×hybrida.*
Cultivar denomination: 'KLEPH06126'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia,* botanically known as *Petunia×hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'KLEPH06126'.

The new *Petunia* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Stuttgart, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to create new freely-branching *Petunia* cultivars with compact and trailing plant habit, early and freely flowering habit, and unique and attractive flower color.

The new *Petunia* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the summer of 2002 in Stuttgart, Germany of a proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida* identified as code number V 188, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida* identified as code number J 11, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Petunia* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany in May, 2003.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Petunia* by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Stuttgart, Germany since May, 2003, has shown that the unique features of this new *Petunia* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar KLEPH06126 has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices 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 'KLEPH06126'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'KLEPH06126' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia:*

1. Outwardly spreading to trailing growth habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Double red purple-colored flowers.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. Plants of the new *Petunia* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are not as compact as and are more trailing than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have double flowers whereas plants of the female parent selection have single flowers.
3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have orange red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. Plants of the new *Petunia* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more trailing than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the male parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the male parent selection have light pink-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the *Petunia* cultivar Sweet Sunshine Pink, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Stuttgart, Germany, plants of the new *Petunia* differed from plants of the cultivar Sweet Sunshine Pink primarily in flower color as plants of the cultivar Sweet Sunshine Pink had lighter red purple-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Petunia,* showing the colors as

true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions 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*. The photograph is a close-up view of a typical flower of 'KLEPH06126'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Stuttgart, Germany, under commercial practice during the spring in a glass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures averaging 18° C., night temperatures averaging 14° C. and light levels averaging 20,000 lux. Plants were pinched one time about one week after planting. Rooted young plants had been growing for about six months when the photograph and description were taken. Plants used for the description were grown in 12-cm containers. 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 KLEPH06126.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida* identified as code number V 188, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Petunia×hybrida* identified as code number J 11, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 21 days at temperatures of 20° C. to 26° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 25 days at temperatures of 20° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Outwardly spreading to trailing growth habit. Freely branching habit with about six primary lateral branches each with multiple secondary lateral branches; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 7 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 28 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 14 cm.

Diameter.—About 2.5 mm.

Internode length.—About 0.5 cm to 3 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Initially upright to outwardly spreading.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—137C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple; sessile.

Length.—About 1 cm to 5 cm.

Width.—About 0.7 cm to 3.5 cm.

Shape.—Broadly elliptic.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Entire; weakly undulate.

Texture, upper surface.—Slightly pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; arcuate.

Color.—Developing foliage, upper surface: 137A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 137C. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 146D. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 145A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Double flowers arranged singly arising from leaf axils. Freely flowering habit with usually about 31 open flowers and flower buds developing per lateral branch. Flowers persistent. Flowers face mostly outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants flower continuously throughout the summer in Germany.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about one week on the plant.

Flower diameter.—About 4.5 cm.

Flower length (height).—About 4.5 cm.

Flower throat diameter.—About 2.5 cm.

Flower tube diameter.—About 5 mm.

Flower tube length.—About 3 cm.

Flower bud.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Color: 71A.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Twelve to fifteen petals fused at the base. Petal length from throat: About 2 cm. Petal lobe width: About 2.5 cm. Petal shape: Outer petals, roughly cordate; inner petals, elliptical. Petal apex: Outer petals, crenate; inner petals, broadly acute. Petal margin: Entire; undulating. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Throat and tube texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Petal, when opening and fully opened, upper surface: 66B; venation, 67A. Petal, when opening and fully opened, lower surface: 71D; venation, 150B. Throat: 66A; venation, 71C. Tube: 160B; venation, 77A.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped calyx tube with five sepals fused at the base per flower. Sepal length: About 1.5 cm. Sepal width: About 3 mm. Sepal shape: Lanceolate to elliptical. Sepal apex: Obtuse. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper surface: 138A. Color, lower surface: 138B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Angle: Erect to about 60° from stem axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 137C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity/arrangement: About six per flower. Anther shape: Elliptic. Anther length: About 3 mm. Anther color: 2C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 2B. Pistils: Quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: About 5 mm. Style length: About 5 mm. Style color: 1C. Stigma shape: Oval. Stigma color: 1C. Ovary color: 1C. Seed/fruit: Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Petunia*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about 6° C. to about 40° C.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named 'KLEPH06126' as illustrated and described.

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