



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP20,616 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 29, 2009**

(54) ***IPOMOEA* PLANT NAMED ‘SEKI LIM’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Ipomoea batatas L. Lam***
Varietal Denomination: **Seki Lim**

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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.: **12/316,553**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2008**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./258**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./258**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new *Ipomoea* plant named ‘Seki Lim’ particularly distin-
guished by compact and mounding plant habit that becomes
more outwardly trailing with age, vigorous, freely branching
with dense lime-green, heart shaped to slightly palmately-
lobed foliage, with soft purple and white flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.

Varietal denomination: ‘Seki Lim’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new *Ipomoea*, botani-
cally known as *Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.*, and commonly
known as Ornamental Sweet Potato, and hereinafter referred
to by the variety name ‘Seki Lim’. These plants are grown, not
for their flowers, but for their foliage and plant habit charac-
teristics. These plants flower very rarely and then only under
strict short day lengths. Each flower is ephemeral, in that it
only lasts up to 24 hours, and blooms mostly through the night
and early morning hours.

‘Seki Lim’ is a product of a planned breeding program. The
new cultivar ‘Seki Lim’ has a compact and mounding plant
habit that becomes more outwardly trailing with age, vigor-
ous, freely branching with dense lime-green heart shaped to
slightly palmately-lobed foliage, with soft purple and white
flowers.

‘Seki Lim’ originated from a cross pollination in a con-
trolled breeding program in Gilroy, Calif. USA. The female
parent was ‘Sweet Caroline Light Green’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.
15,028). ‘Sweet Caroline Light Green’ has lighter green foli-
age, a less compact habit, longer petioles and darker flower
color than ‘Seki Lim’.

The male parent of ‘Seki Lim’ was ‘Margurite’, an unpat-
ented commercial variety, with larger foliage and less com-
pact plant habit than ‘Seki Lim’.

‘Seki Lim’ was selected as one flowering plant within the
progeny of the stated cross in March 2007, in a controlled
environment in Gilroy, Calif. USA. The pollination took
place in October 2006 and the seed sown in December 2006.

The first act of asexual reproduction of ‘Seki Lim’ was
accomplished when vegetative cuttings were used from the
initial selection in the March 2007 in a controlled environ-
ment in Gilroy, Calif. USA.

Horticultural examination of plants grown from cuttings of
the plant initiated in March 2007 in Gilroy, Calif. USA, and
continuing thereafter, has demonstrated that the combination

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of characteristics as herein disclosed for ‘Seki Lim’ are firmly
fixed and are retained through successive generations of
asexual reproduction.

‘Seki Lim’ has not been observed under all possible envi-
ronmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly
with variations in environment such as temperature, light
intensity and day length.

A Plant Breeder’s Right for this cultivar was applied for in
Canada on Dec. 24, 2007. ‘Seki Lim’ has not been made
publicly available more than one year prior to the filing of this
application.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING

The accompanying photographic drawing shows typical
foliage and plant habit characteristics of ‘Seki Lim’ with
colors being as true as possible with an illustration of this
type. The photographic drawing shows 3 young potted plants
of the new variety growing in a 10 inch container. These
plants were grown and photographed in Gilroy, Calif. USA in
April of 2008.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The measurements were taken in October 2008 in Gilroy,
Calif. USA on plants that were growing in 6 inch pots in a
greenhouse. Culture of these plants started in about August
2008, when they came from sterile tissue culture tubes after
laboratory micropropagation.

Color chart used: Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart
(R.H.S.) 2001

BRIEF SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The following observations, measurements, and compari-
sons describe plants grown in Gilroy, Calif. USA. The fol-
lowing traits have been repeatedly observed and are deter-
mined to be basic characteristics of the new variety. The
combination of these characteristics distinguishes this *Ipo-*
moea as a new and distinct variety.

TABLE 1

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NEW VARIETY ‘SEKI LIM’ AND A SIMILAR VARIETY		
	‘Seki Lim’	‘Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,572)
Foliage shape	Slightly more palmately lobed	Less lobed, more cordate
Foliage size	Larger	Smaller
Petiole size	Longer	Shorter
Stem color	RHS 146B	RHS 145B

Plant:
Form, growth and habit.—Compact and mounding plant habit that becomes more outwardly trailing with age, freely branching with dense foliage, vigorous.
Plant height.—13–16 cm.
Plant width.—40–45 cm.

Roots/tubers:
Type.—At the age of these plants used for the descriptive data, there were no real tubers forming. The roots themselves are thick, fleshy and cream to white.

Foliage:
Type.—Alternate, simple.
Immature, leaf color, upper surface.—Between RHS N144A and RHS 144A; RHS 166A anthocyanins at the margins.
Lower surface.—Closest to RHS 146C.
Mature, leaf color, upper surface.—Closest to RHS 144A; RHS 166A at the margins.
Lower surface.—Closest to RHS 146D.
Length.—11.5–13.4 cm.
Width.—10.4–12.5 cm.
Shape.—Roughly cordate to deltoid; slightly palmate, 3 lobed.
Base shape.—Cordate.
Apex shape.—Apiculate to aristate.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Hirsute on the margins of both surfaces.
Color of veins, upper surface.—RHS 144C; RHS 187A but a little more grey, mid vein basally.
Color of veins, lower surface.—RHS 144C; RHS 187A but a little more grey, mid vein basally.
Petioles color.—RHS 144B.
Petioles length.—8.3–9.0 cm.
Diameter of petiole.—0.3 cm.
Texture.—Glabrous.

Stem:
Color of stem.—RHS 146B.
Length of stem.—25–35 cm.
Diameter.—0.4–0.5 cm.
Length of internodes.—1.0–3.5 cm.
Texture.—Glabrous.

Inflorescence:
Type.—Ephemeral; rarely see many flowers. Flowers only under very strict short day lengths.
Fragrance.—None.
Color of peduncle.—RHS 144A but slightly lighter.

Length of peduncle.—0.3–0.4 cm.
Peduncle diameter.—0.2 cm.
Texture.—Glabrous.

Corolla:
Form.—Single trumpet-shaped flowers arise from leaf axils comprised of 5 petals fused at the corolla length and base.
Flower diameter.—4.0–4.5 cm.
Flower depth.—3.0–3.5 cm.
Color of petals, upper surface.—RHS 75D; RHS 76C at the margins; RHS 77C mid veins.
Color of petals, lower surface.—RHS 76D; RHS 77D mid veins.
Length of petals.—1.5–1.6 cm.
Width of petals.—1.4–1.5 cm.
Petal shape.—Obovate.
Apex shape.—Broadly obtuse to rounded.
Margin.—Entire.
Petal texture.—Papillose on upper surface and glabrous on the under surface.
Corolla color inner surface.—Between RHS 77A and 77B; RHS 77A veins.
Outer surface.—RHS 77C but greyer.
Corolla diameter at flare.—1.6–2.0 cm.

Bud (just before opening):
Color.—RHS 63B.
Length.—1.5 cm.
Width.—0.4–0.5 cm.
Shape.—Orbicular.
Calyx.—5 sepals fused at the base.
Color of sepals, inner surface.—Closest to RHS 148A.
Outer surface.—Closest to RHS 148A.
Length of sepals.—0.7–0.8 cm.
Width of sepals.—0.2–0.3 cm.
Sepal shape.—Lanceolate.
Apex shape.—Acute.
Margins.—Entire.
Texture.—Slightly pubescent on the outer surface and glabrous on the inner surface.

Reproductive organs:
Pistil.—1.
Length.—2–2.3 cm.
Style color.—RHS N155B but whiter.
Style length.—1.7–2.0 cm.
Stigma color.—RHS N155B but whiter.
Stamens.—5.
Color of filaments.—RHS N155B but whiter.
Length filaments.—0.5–0.6 cm.
Anther color.—RHS 155C.
Length of anthers.—0.2–0.3 cm.
Color of pollen.—RHS 155A.
Pollen amount.—Scarce.
Fertility/seed set.—Not observed on this hybrid.

Disease/pest resistance: Disease resistance or susceptibility has not been observed on this hybrid.

What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct variety of *Ipomoea* plant named ‘Seki Lim’, substantially as illustrated and described herein.

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