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**Stemkens**

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(54) **VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'BRITENA'**

(50) Latin Name: *Verbenaxhybrida*  
Varietal Denomination: **Britena**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant named 'Britena,' characterized particularly as to novelty by flowers fading from rose to white with a purple center, which appear earlier on the plant, and a growing habit that is first upright and later spreading.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed: *Verbenaxhybrida*.

Varietal denomination: 'Britena'.

**BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT**

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena*, botanically known as *Verbenaxhybrida*.

The new *Verbenaxhybrida* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted in Enkhuizen, Netherlands.

A new *Verbena* plant particularly distinguished by its rose flowers with a purple center fading to white flowers with a purple center, early flowering, a habit that is first semi-erect and later spreading.

The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the open pollination of 'G0809-2' and an unknown parent. 'G0809-2' is an apricot flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. 'G0809-2' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. 'G0809-2' has not been patented. The male parent is unknown.

As a result of this open pollination the present cultivar was created in 2004 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

A Plant Breeder's Right for this cultivar was applied for in the European Union on Nov. 12, 2008. 'Britena' has not been made publicly available more than one year prior to the filing of this application.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full colour, the colour shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR**

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Verbena*. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 14 week old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light.

Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

**TABLE 1**

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 'BRITENA,' ITS PARENTS AND THE MOST RESEMBLING VARIETY**

	'Britena'	'G0809-2'	'Escapade Bright Eye' (Not patented)
Earliness	Early	Early	Late
Internode length	Short	Short	Long
Main color	Fading rose to pink with purple eye	No eye	White with violet eye
Vigor	Compact	Very compact	Very vigorous

**The Plant:**

*Classification botanical.*—*Verbenaxhybrida*.

*Parentage.*—Female parent: 'G0809-2'. Pollen parent: Unknown.

*Growth habit.*—Semi-upright, later trailing.

*Plant height.*—23-36 cm.

*Spreading area of plant.*—30-45 cm.

*Growth rate.*—Hanging and vigorous.

*Branching character.*—Freely branching and lateral branching at every node.

*Blooming period.*—From April until November.

**The stem:**

*Diameter.*—2.5-3 mm.

*Shape.*—Tetragonal.

*Anthocyanin pigmentation.*—Absent.

*Color.*—37B.

*Length of internode.*—22-42 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagated.

*Pubescence*.—Pubescence is present.

The foliage:

*Phyllotaxis*.—Opposite.

*Shape of blade*.—Broadly ovate.

*Texture*.—Upper side: Pubescent. Lower side: Pubescent. 5

*Venation*.—Pinnate.

*Leaf margin*.—Dentate.

*Leaf base*.—Obtuse.

*Leaf apex*.—Acute. 10

*Length*.—25-33 mm.

*Width*.—18-22 mm.

*Depth of incision*.—3 mm.

*Color*.—Upper side: 137B. Lower side: 137C.

*Pubescence*.—Some pubescence is present on both surfaces. 15

*Length of leaf stem*.—2-3 mm.

*Petiole surface structure*.—Slightly pubescent.

*Petiole color*.—Upper side: 137B. Lower side: 137B.

The bud: 20

*Peduncle length*.—32-40 mm, depending on season.

*Peduncle color*.—137B.

*Size*.—Diameter: 2 mm. Length: 8-13 mm.

*Shape*.—Elongated and ovate.

*Colour*.—137B. 25

*Surface texture*.—Some pubescence is present.

*Sepals*.—Color Upper side: 138B. Lower side: 137C.  
Form: Upright. Number: 5, fused. Size: 4.5 mm.  
Shape: Elongated.

The flower: 30

*Facing direction*.—Upward.

*Outward curvature of petal*.—Slightly curved.

*Diameter*.—16 mm.

*Height*.—16-18 mm.

*Borne*.—In a cluster. 35

*Form*.—Salverform; sessile on terminal spikes.

*Cluster*.—Spike.

*Color*.—N66A fading to N155D and in the center N81A.

*Eye*.—N81A.

*Overlapping of petals*.—Separate. 40

*Number of petals*.—Gamopetalous, 5 lobed.

*Shape of the petals*.—Each petal is heart shaped at the apex and grown together at the base.

*Petal margin*.—Entire.

*Petal surface texture*.—Upper side: Smooth. Lower side: Smooth.

*Size of the petal*.—Length: 6-7 mm. Width: 5-7 mm.

*Spike*.—Length: 25-30 mm. Diameter: 30-50 mm.

*Calyx length*.—8-9 mm.

*Anthocyanin pigmentation of calyx limb*.—Absent.

*Color of the calyx*.—Upper side: 137B. Lower side: 137C.

*Corolla tube length*.—16 mm.

*Corolla tube color*.—Upper side: N66A. Lower side: 14A.

*Number of flowers per spike*.—14-28.

*Diameter of the inflorescence spike*.—4.2 cm.

*Fragrance*.—No fragrance.

*Lastingness of the bloom*.—New florets continue to open in one spike over a period of 10 days.

*Lastingness of one flower*.—5 days on the plant and 3 hours off the plant.

Reproductive organs:

*Androecium*.—Stamens quantity: 4. Anther shape: Ovoid. Anther length: 1 mm. Anther color: 144C. Pollen amount: Scarce pollen. Pollen color: 145D.

*Gynoecium*.—Pistils quantity: 1. Pistil length: 18-22 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-lobed. Stigma color: 144C. Style length: 14-18 mm. Style color: 144D. Ovary color: 144C.

No seed set is observed.

Physiological and ecological characteristics: Good tolerance to heat and cold, from 2 to 35 degrees C. No resistance to diseases common in *Verbena* is observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant named 'Britena,' substantially as illustrated and described herein.

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