

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Craigie et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP24,651 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 15, 2014**

(54) **AGAPANTHUS ORIENTALIS PLANT NAMED**
‘PMN06’

(50) Latin Name: *Agapanthus orientalis*
Varietal Denomination: **PMN06**

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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.: **11/903,036**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 20, 2007**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2010/0050307 P1 Feb. 25, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data
(60) Provisional application No. 60/846,050, filed on Sep.
20, 2006.

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./398**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./398**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**
PUBLICATIONS

Plant Variety Journal Quarter 4 vol. 18 No. 4 Mar. 1, 2006. p. 1 and
21.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

‘PMN06’ is a distinctive variety of *Agapanthus orientalis*,
which is characterized by its distinctive violet-blue and white
bicolored flowers. These are expressed as a white inner peri-
anth tube color and perianth lobes in contrast to a violet blue
outer perianth tube color. These violet-blue and white bicol-
ored flowers are borne on stems up to 90 cm high typically
developing in late spring and early summer.

5 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of the
novel variety disclosed herein is *Agapanthus orientalis*
‘PMN06’.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of *Agapan-*
thus orientalis disclosed herein has been given the variety
denomination ‘PMN06’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of evergreen perennial *Agapanthus orientalis*, which has
been named ‘PMN06’. *Agapanthus* is a genus of ornamental
plants which are native to South Africa. The new variety
Agapanthus orientalis ‘PMN06’ is the result of a breeding
program aimed at producing an *Agapanthus orientalis* variety
with distinctive blue and white bicolored flowers. Violet-blue
and white bicolored flowers on stems up to 90 cm high typi-
cally develop in late spring and early summer.

An application for Plant Breeders Rights for ‘PMN06’ has
been lodged with the Australian Plant Breeders Rights Office,
and was accepted on 4 Nov. 2005 (under Application No.
2005/318).

Parentage: The cultivar ‘PMN06’ was the result of a con-
trolled pollination in 1999 at Pine Mountain, Queensland,
Australia, in which the parent variety, breeder’s code
‘PMN01’ (unpatented) was selfed to breeder’s code
‘PMN01’ (unpatented). The parent form is characterized by a
tall plant height, wide leaf width, erect leaf attitude, and weak
violet blue and white bicolored flowers. Selection criteria for
‘PMN06’ were bicolored flowers, large inflorescence size and
a high density of flowers in the inflorescence.

2

Asexual reproduction. The new variety ‘PMN06’ was first
asexually propagated by vegetative division in the state of
Queensland, Australia in 2002 and has been asexually propa-
gated since that time by division and micropropagation. The
distinctive characteristics of cultivar ‘PMN06’ have remained
stable and true to type through successive cycles of asexual
propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

‘PMN06’ is a distinctive variety of *Agapanthus orientalis*,
which is characterized by its distinctive violet-blue and white
bicolored flowers. These are expressed as a white inner peri-
anth tube color and perianth lobes in contrast to a violet blue
outer perianth tube color.

Violet-blue and white bicolored flowers on stems up to 90
cm high typically develop in late spring and early summer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows an exemplary *Agapanthus orientalis*
‘PMN06’ plant at approximately 10-months of age from divi-
sion of a mature clump. The plant was propagated and was
transferred to a 250 mm diameter pot size and grown out in
full sun.

FIG. 2 shows a comparison between ‘PMN06’ (on left) and
the similar variety ‘Cloudy Days’.

FIG. 3 show colors of ‘PMN06’ flowers as they develop.

FIG. 4 shows an inflorescence of ‘PMN06’.

FIG. 5 shows a comparison between inflorescences of
‘PMN06’ (on left) and the similar variety ‘Cloudy Days’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The following is a detailed botanical description of a new and distinct variety of *Agapanthus orientalis* known as ‘PMN06’ based upon observations of 12-month old plants (propagated from division) grown in nursery pots in full sun in open beds in Pine Mountain, Queensland, Australia during early summer 2005 (as described below in connection with Table 1). Plant observations and descriptions were taken in early summer 2005.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain characteristics will vary with older or, conversely, with younger plants. ‘PMN06’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. Where dimensions, sizes, colors and other characteristics are given, it is to be understood that such characteristics are approximations or averages set forth as accurately as practicable. The phenotype of the variety may differ from the descriptions set forth herein with variations in environmental, climatic and cultural conditions. Color notations are based on *The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart*, The Royal Horticultural Society, London, 1995 edition.

‘PMN06’ is an evergreen perennial *Agapanthus orientalis*. ‘PMN06’ has violet-blue and white bicolored flowers on stems up to 90 cm high that develop in spring and early summer. These are expressed as a white inner perianth tube color and perianth lobes in contrast to a violet blue outer perianth tube color.

These characteristics are unusual for *Agapanthus orientalis*, as these plants usually have either solely a violet-blue flower form or solely a white flower form, without the contrast in color between the inner and outer perianth tube or the contrast between the outer perianth tube and the perianth lobes. A botanical description of ‘PMN06’ and comparisons with the common white and common violet blue forms of *Agapanthus orientalis* and the similar variety ‘Cloudy Days’ (unpatented) are provided below.

Technical Description of the Variety

Plant characteristics: Growth habit clumps of strap-like leaves from thick rhizomes, height of foliage medium (mean 53 cm), height including inflorescence 105 cm, flowering season late (commences late spring to early summer in south-east Queensland, Australia).

Leaves: Attitude erect to semi-erect, length medium (mean 44 cm), width medium (mean 42 mm), variegation absent, upper and lower side color yellow green (RHS 146A) shape ligulate, apex obtuse to broad acute, margin entire.

Inflorescence: Structure is umbellate, diameter medium (mean 23 cm), number of flowers medium (mean 144 per umbel), peduncle length medium (mean 86 cm), peduncle width medium (mean 14 mm), peduncle color yellow green (RHS 144A).

Flower: Type single, color of bud violet blue (RHS 93C-D), diameter medium (mean 44 mm), length medium (mean 42 mm), color of outer perianth tube violet blue (RHS 93C-D), color of inner perianth tube white (RHS 155D), perianth lobe length medium (mean 29 mm), perianth lobe width medium (mean 9.5 mm), pedicel length medium (mean 64 mm), pedicel diameter medium (mean 1.7 mm), pedicel color yellow green (RHS 144B) maturing distally to grayed green (approximately RHS 197A), color of new

anthers gray (RHS 201A), color of pollen yellow green (RHS 153A), color of filaments, style and stigma white (approximately RHS155D).

Cold and heat tolerance: ‘PMN06’ has not yet been observed under all conditions. It is expected to exhibit cold tolerance typical of the species. Further testing for cold tolerance is ongoing. ‘PMN06’ is also very heat tolerant. It adapted well to the high heat and humidity conditions during summer in Pine Mountain, Queensland, Australia without any disease or insect damage.

Drought tolerance: ‘PMN06’ has not yet been observed under all conditions. It is expected to exhibit good drought tolerance typical of the species.

Pest resistance: No known pests.

Cultural conditions: ‘PMN06’ can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions.

Comparisons with Other *Agapanthus*

The parent form, *Agapanthus orientalis* ‘PMN01’, is characterized by a tall plant height, wide leaf width, erect leaf attitude, and weak violet blue and white bicolored flowers. ‘PMN06’ has a medium foliar height (53 cm on average) whereas ‘PMN01’ has a tall plant height (64 cm on average). ‘PMN06’ has leaves that measure 42 mm wide whereas the leaves of ‘PMN01’ measure 53 mm wide, on average. ‘PMN06’ exhibits a more arched habit with foliage that is semi erect to erect whereas the habit of ‘PMN01’ exhibits an erect habit. The violet color of the outer perianth of ‘PMN06’ is a deeper hue of violet blue (RHS 93C to RHS 93D) whereas the outer perianth of ‘PMN01’ has a weaker violet blue color (RHS 92C).

Comparisons with Other *Agapanthus*

‘PMN06’ is an attractive ornamental clump forming strappy leaved plant as compared with other *Agapanthus orientalis*. ‘PMN06’ is characterized by its distinctive violet-blue and white bicolored flowers borne on stems up to 90 cm high typically developing in late spring and early summer. ‘PMN06’ has violet-blue and white bicolored flowers, whereas the standard forms of *Agapanthus orientalis* have either solely violet-blue colored flowers or solely white colored flowers only (see Table 1).

Agapanthus orientalis ‘Cloudy Days’ (unpatented, Australian Plant Breeders Rights application no. 2001/354) is the most similar comparator variety to ‘PMN06’. In comparison with *Agapanthus orientalis* ‘Cloudy Days’, cultivar ‘PMN06’ has a darker violet blue outer perianth tube color, a taller plant height including the inflorescence, a longer peduncle length, a greater number of flowers per inflorescence and a longer flower length (see Table 1).

A comparative trial of *Agapanthus* cultivar ‘PMN06’ with *Agapanthus orientalis* ‘Cloudy Days’ was carried out in early summer 2005 in Pine Mountain, Queensland, Australia. The data are presented in Table 1 below with additional comparison to the common white and common violet blue forms of *Agapanthus orientalis* collected in early summer 2000. The plants for this trial were propagated from divisions, planted into 200 mm pots filled with soilless potting mix, and grown in full sun for nine months before the trial started. Nutrition was maintained with slow release fertilizers; pest and disease treatments were not necessary. The trial was designed such that fifteen plants of each variety were arranged in a completely randomized manner. Measurements were taken from ten plants at random with one sample per plant.

TABLE 1

Characteristic	<i>Agapanthus</i> Varieties			
	'PMN06'	'Cloudy Days'	<i>A. orientalis</i> (white form)	<i>A. orientalis</i> (violet blue form)
Plant Height (including inflorescence)	105 cm	88 cm	110 cm	112 cm
Plant Height (foliar only)	53 cm	44 cm	44 cm	52 cm
Peduncle length	86 cm	64 cm	82 cm	95 cm
Inflorescence diameter	23 cm	23 cm	23 cm	22 cm
Number of flowers per inflorescence	144	86	130	130
Leaf length	44 cm	38 cm	38 cm	48 cm
Leaf width	42 mm	39 mm	38 mm	41 mm
Flower diameter	44 mm	44 mm	46 mm	48 mm
Flower length	42 mm	37 mm	42 mm	45 mm
Perianth lobe length	29 mm	29 mm	32 mm	32 mm

TABLE 1-continued

Characteristic	<i>Agapanthus</i> Varieties			
	'PMN06'	'Cloudy Days'	<i>A. orientalis</i> (white form)	<i>A. orientalis</i> (violet blue form)
Flower bud color (RHS)	93C-D	93C-94C	155D	94B
Contrast between outer perianth tube color and perianth lobe color	present	present	absent	absent
Outer perianth tube color (RHS)	93C-D	93C-94C	155D	94C-D
Inner perianth lobe color (RHS)	155D	155D	155D	94C-D with stripe of 94B

That which is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct variety of *Agapanthus orientalis* plant named 'PMN06', substantially as described and illustrated herein.

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