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Dealtrey

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(54) **LOBELIA PLANT NAMED ‘ROSE PRINCESS’**

(50) Latin Name: *Lobelia speciosa*
Varietal Denomination: **Rose Princess**

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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 9 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Lobelia* plant named ‘Rose Princess’, characterized by its upright and compact plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; dense and bushy plant form; freely flowering habit; long flowering period; red purple-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Lobelia speciosa*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘ROSE PRINCESS’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Lobelia* plant, botanically known as *Lobelia speciosa* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Rose Princess’.

The new *Lobelia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Langford, Maldon, Essex, United Kingdom. The objective of the breeding program is to create new compact and uniform *Lobelia* plants with numerous attractive flowers.

The new *Lobelia* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in 2008 of two proprietary seedling selections of *Lobelia speciosa*, not patented. The new *Lobelia* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Langford, Maldon, Essex, United Kingdom in 2009.

Asexual reproduction of the *Lobelia* plant by vegetative cuttings in Hillegom, The Netherlands since the summer of 2009 has shown that the unique features of this new *Lobelia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Lobelia* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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 ‘Rose Princess’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Rose Princess’ as a new and distinct *Lobelia* plant:

1. Upright and compact plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy plant form.
4. Freely flowering habit.

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5. Long flowering period.
6. Red purple-colored flowers.
7. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Lobelia* differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lobelia* are more compact than plants of the parent selections.
2. Plants of the new *Lobelia* grow more uniformly than plants of the parent selections.
3. Plants of the new *Lobelia* have darker-colored leaves than plants of the parent selections.
4. Plants of the new *Lobelia* are more freely flowering than plants of the parent selections.

Plants of the new *Lobelia* can be compared to plants of *Lobelia speciosa* ‘Fan Salmon’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Langford, Maldon, Essex, United Kingdom, plants of the new *Lobelia* differed from plants of ‘Fan Salmon’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lobelia* were more compact than plants of ‘Fan Salmon’.
2. Plants of the new *Lobelia* grew more uniformly than plants of ‘Fan Salmon’.
3. Plants of the new *Lobelia* and ‘Fan Salmon’ differed in leaf color.
4. Plants of the new *Lobelia* were more freely flowering than plants of ‘Fan Salmon’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Lobelia* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Lobelia* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Rose Princess’ grown in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Rose Princess'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used for the aforementioned photographs and following description were grown during the summer in ground beds in an outdoor nursery in Vogelenzang, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Lobelia* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 28° C. and night temperatures ranged from 8° C. to 18° C. Plants were two years old when the photograph and the description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Botanical classification: *Lobelia speciosa* 'Rose Princess'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary seedling selection of *Lobelia speciosa*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unnamed proprietary seedling selection of *Lobelia speciosa*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—In vitro propagation.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at temperatures about 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About twelve days at temperatures about 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About four weeks at temperatures about 18° C.

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

Root description.—Thick, fleshy; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; upright and compact plant habit; freely basal branching habit with about six primary flowering stems each with about five lateral branches developing; relatively short internodes; dense and bushy plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 79.5 cm.

Plant width.—About 33.9 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 30 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1.9 cm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: Mostly upright to about 10° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 178A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple; sessile.

Length.—About 11.6 cm.

Width.—About 3.5 cm.

Shape.—Obovate to oblanceolate.

Apex.—Acuminate to long acuminate.

Base.—Long and narrowly cuneate.

Margin.—Irregularly serrate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; slightly leathery.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A; towards the apex, tinged with close to 200A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to between N186C and 200A tinged with close to N137B; venation, close to 146A. Fully expanded

leaves, lower surface: Close to 137C heavily tinged with close to 187C; venation, close to 148A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement, habit and shape.—Single flowers arranged in terminal racemes; flowers held slightly upright to outwardly; freely flowering habit with typically 36 flowers per inflorescence and about 500 flowers developing per plant; flowers bilabiate with two free smaller upper petals and three partially-fused lower petals.

Inflorescence length.—About 25.6 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 6.9 cm.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—In The Netherlands, plants of the new *Lobelia* flower continuously from early spring to late summer; plants begin flowering about 13 weeks after planting.

Flower longevity on the plant.—Longevity of individual flowers is highly dependent on temperature, flowers typically last about ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower diameter.—About 3.4 cm by 3.8 cm.

Flower depth.—About 3.1 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.6 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Oblong to narrowly obovate. Color: Close to 59C; towards the apex, close to 60A.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: Single whorl of five petals fused towards the base; two smaller free upper petals and three partially-fused lower petals; all petals fused into a tube towards the base. Length: About 4.2 mm. Width, upper petals: About 4 mm. Width, lower petals: About 9 mm. Shape: Narrowly spatulate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; slightly velvety. Texture, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 63B; throat, close to 61C. When opening, lower surface: Close to 60C; tube, close to 61B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 61C; throat, close to 61A; color does not fade with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 60C; tube, close to 59D.

Sepals.—Quantity and arrangement: Single whorl of five sepals, fused at the base; calyx, campanulate. Length: About 1.3 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Base: Broadly cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 200B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 200B.

Peduncles.—Length: About 23 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to between 178A and 183B.

Pedicels.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Aspect: About 10° from peduncle axis. Strength: Moderately strong, flexible. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to N187B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Five. Filament length: About 2.6 cm. Filament color: Close to 60A. Anther length: About 4 mm. Anther shape: Narrowly oblong. Anther color: Close to 201A to 201B. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 20B. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2.3 cm. Stigma shape: Bi-lobate. Stigma color: Close to 174B. Style length: About 2.1 cm. Style

color: Close to 182B to 182C; towards the base, tinged with close to 185C. Ovary color: Close to 187C.

Fruits and seeds.—Fruit and seed development have not been observed on plants of the new *Lobelia*.

Disease & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Lobelia* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Lobelia* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Lobelia* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate wind, rain, high temperatures about 40° C. and to be hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 5.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Lobelia* plant named ‘Rose Princess’ as illustrated and described.

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