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(54) **CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED ‘SUNBEL 8571’**

(50) Latin Name: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Varietal Denomination: **Sunbel 8571**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant named ‘Sunbel 8571’, characterized by its compact and mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; early and freely flowering habit; long flowering period; relatively large bright yellow-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Calibrachoa* sp.
Cultivar denomination: ‘SUNBEL 8571’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Calibrachoa* plant, botanically known as *Calibrachoa* sp. and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Sunbel 8571’.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventors in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new compact, mounding and freely branching *Calibrachoa* plants with numerous large and attractively colored flowers.

The new *Calibrachoa* plant originated from a cross-pollination conducted by the Inventors in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan on Jul. 25, 2007 of a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 6985-2, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 6961-2, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Calibrachoa* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventors as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan on Jul. 1, 2010.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Calibrachoa* plant by vegetative cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan since Jul. 1, 2010 has shown that the unique features of this new *Calibrachoa* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* 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.

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The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Sunbel 8571’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Sunbel 8571’ as a new and distinct *Calibrachoa* plant:

1. Compact and mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Early and freely flowering habit.
5. Long flowering period.
6. Relatively large bright yellow-colored flowers.
7. Good garden performance.

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

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more mounding than and not as upright as plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have light orange-colored flowers.

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

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more compact than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* are more mounding than and not as decumbent as plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and the male parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the male parent selection have deep yellow-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* can also be compared to plants of *Calibrachoa* ‘Sunbelriki’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 20,918. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in

Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* and ‘Sunbelriki’ differed primarily in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more compact than plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.
2. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more mounding than and not as outwardly spreading as plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.
3. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* had shorter internodes than plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.
4. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* had slightly smaller leaves than plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.
5. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* were more freely flowering than plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.
6. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* ‘Sunbelriki’ differed slightly in flower color.
7. Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* had shorter peduncles than plants of ‘Sunbelriki’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Calibrachoa* 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 colors of the new *Calibrachoa* plant.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Sunbel 8571’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Sunbel 8571’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the summer in 15-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Calibrachoa* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 23° C. and night temperatures averaged 13° C. Plants were four months old when the photographs 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: *Calibrachoa* sp. ‘Sunbel 8571’.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 6985-2, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Calibrachoa* sp. identified as code number 6961-2, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About one week at 15° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three weeks at 15° C. to 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 15 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 35.8 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 15.7 cm.

Diameter.—About 1.8 mm.

Internode length.—About 1.6 cm.

Strength.—Strong.

Aspect.—Upright to outwardly.

Texture.—Pubescent.

Color.—Close to 144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 3.75 cm.

Width.—About 1.1 cm.

Shape.—Spatulate.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Cuneate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; reticulate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 137D. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 143A; venation, close to 144B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 143C; venation, close to 144D.

Petiole.—Length: About 3 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. *Color, upper and lower surfaces:* Close to 144B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and habit.—Single salverform flowers arising from upper leaf axils; freely flowering habit with usually about 155 flowers developing per plant; flowers face upright or outwardly.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Early flowering habit, plants of the new *Calibrachoa* initiate and develop flowers about three to four weeks after planting; long flowering period, flowering naturally commences during the early spring and plants flower continuously throughout the summer until late autumn in Japan.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about seven to ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Flower diameter.—About 2.8 cm.

Flower length (depth).—About 2.3 cm.

Throat diameter.—About 6.3 mm.

Tube length.—About 1.6 cm.

Tube diameter, base.—About 2.9 mm.

Flower buds.—Shape: Cylindrical. Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 5.9 mm. Color: Close to 3C.

Corolla.—Arrangement: Five petals fused at the base and opening into a flared trumpet. Petal length from throat: About 1 cm. Petal width: About 1.2 cm. Petal shape: Roughly spatulate. Petal apex: Rounded with truncate tendencies. Petal margin: Entire. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent. Color: Petal, when opening, upper surface: Close to 12A. Petal, when opening, lower surface: Close to 12C. Petal, fully opened, upper surface:

Close to 9A; venation, close to 12A. Petal, fully opened, lower surface: Close to 9A; venation, close to 9A. Throat: Close to 11A; venation, close to 11A. Tube: Close to 11B; venation, close to 11B.

Calyx.—Arrangement: One star-shaped tubular calyx 5
tube with five sepals fused at the base. Sepal length:
About 5 mm to 8 mm. Sepal width: About 1.7 mm.
Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Obtuse. Sepal
margin: Entire. Sepal texture, upper and lower sur-
faces: Pubescent. Sepal color: Immature and mature, 10
upper surface: Close to 143A. Immature and mature,
lower surface: Close to 143B. Peduncles: Length:
About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 0.7 mm. Angle:
Mostly outwardly. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubes-
cent. Color: Close to 144B. 15

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity: Five per
flower. Stamen length: About 1 cm to 1.2 cm. Anther
shape: Ellipsoidal. Anther size: About 1 mm by 1.2
mm. Anther color: Close to 13A. Pollen amount:

Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 2D. Pistils: Quantity:
One per flower. Pistil length: About 1.1 cm. Style
color: Close to 145C. Stigma shape: Transversely
ellipsoidal. Stigma color: Close to 145A. Ovary color:
Close to 144B.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit development have not
been observed on plants of the new *Calibrachoa*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa* have
been observed to have good garden performance and to
tolerate wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about 5°
C. to about 35° C.

Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Calibrachoa*
have not been observed to be resistant to pests and patho-
gens common to *Calibrachoa* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Calibrachoa* plant named 'Sunbel
8571' as illustrated and described.

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