US00PP26686P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(10) **Patent No.: US PP26,686 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: May 3, 2016**

(54) ***IPOMOEA* PLANT NAMED 'BALSOLARED'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Ipomoea batatas***
Varietal Denomination: **Balsolared**

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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.: **14/544,483**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 12, 2015**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./226, 258, 373
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of an ornamental *Ipomoea* plant named 'Balsolared', characterized by bronzed-burgundy foliage, and moderately vigorous, moderately-compact, mounded to trailing growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Ipomoea batatas*.

Variety denomination: 'Balsolared'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea* plant botanically known as *Ipomoea batatas* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Balsolared'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during November 2012. The objective of the breeding program was the development of ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivars with a well-branched, mounded growth habit with good garden performance under high night temperatures.

The new ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is ILLUSION Garnet Lace 'NCORNSP-013GNLC', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,612, characterized by its burgundy-red colored foliage and compact, semi-upright, mounding growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is 'Sweet Caroline Bronze', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,437, characterized by its bronze to purple-bronze colored foliage and compact-mounding growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during July 2013 in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since July 2013 in Arroyo Grande, Calif., and West Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish 'Balsolared' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea* plant:

1. Bronzed-burgundy colored foliage; and
2. Moderately vigorous, moderately-compact, mounded to trailing growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female and male parents primarily in having a different foliage color.

Of the many commercially available ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is Sidekick Bronze, not patented. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of Sidekick Bronze in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a redder foliage color than plants of Sidekick Bronze; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a different foliage base shape than plants of Sidekick Bronze.

In addition, the new cultivar is similar in comparison to 'Balsolalime', co-pending U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 14/544,485. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ front plants of 'Balsolalime' in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a leaf color different from plants of 'Balsolalime';
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a shorter central leaf lobe than plants of 'Balsolalime'; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar have a branch color different from plants of 'Balsolalime'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of 'Balsolared'. The plants were grown in 4-inch pots for 7 weeks in a greenhouse in West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. **1** illustrates a side view of the overall growth and habit of 'Balsolared'.

FIG. **2** illustrates a close-up view of an individual leaf of 'Balsolared'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in November 2014 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in West Chicago, Ill. in 4-inch pots for 7 weeks in a greenhouse utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 66° F. to 70° F. (19° C. to 21° C.) during the day and approximately 58° F. to 62° F. (14° C. to 17° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Ipomoea batatas* cultivar Balsolared.

Parentage:

Female parent.—ILLUSION Garnet Lace 'NCORNSP-013GNLC', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,612.

Male parent.—'Sweet Caroline Bronze', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,437.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 3 to 4 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 28 days.

Root description.—Fibrous, medium thickness, white to light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 4 to 5 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately-compact, mounded to trailing growth habit.

Size.—Height: Approximately 13.0 cm. Width: Approximately 29.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, pinching enhances basal branching. Quantity of main lateral branches per plant: Approximately 3, each axil has latent shoots.

Branch.—Shape: Round. Strength: Strong, slightly flexible. Length: Approximately 3.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color of young stems: 187B. Color of mature stems: 187A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 5. Fragrance: None detected. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate, spiral.

Leaves.—Shape: Roughly deltoid in overall form, palmately divided with 5 lobes. Margin: Entire. Apex of central lobe: Acuminate. Apex of lateral lobes: Acute. Base: Cordate. Venation pattern: Palmate with arcuate venation in the center lamina. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 11.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 10.0 cm. Length of central lobe: Approximately 7.5 cm. Width of central lobe: Approximately 5.0 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 145A with an irregular overlay of 187B. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 145B with an irregular overlay of N186D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Mixture of N137A with 187B having an overall bronzed-burgundy appearance, venation of N186C. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Lighter than N186D with venation of N186D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 8.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: N186D.

Flowering description: The new ornamental *Ipomoea* cultivar is grown as a foliage plant and is not grown under conditions that are conducive to flower production.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Ipomoea* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of an ornamental *Ipomoea* plant named 'Balsolared', substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1

FIG. 2