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(54) **PETUNIA PLANT NAMED ‘USTUNJ1901’**

(50) Latin Name: *Petunia*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **USTUNJ1901**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named ‘USTUNJ1901’, characterized by its compact, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit; vigorous growth habit; early and freely flowering habit; relatively small white-colored flowers with a distinct and stable blue violet star-shaped color pattern; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Botanical designation: *Petunia*×*hybrida*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘USTUNJ1901’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Petunia* plant, botanically known as *Petunia*×*hybrida* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘USTUNJ1901’.

The new *Petunia* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan and Bonsall, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new freely-branching and uniformly mounding *Petunia* plants with early and freely flowering habit, unique attractive flowers and good garden performance.

The new *Petunia* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor on Jun. 16, 2012 in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan of a proprietary seedling selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code number 09P370-01, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unnamed selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida*, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Petunia* 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 Bonsall, Calif. on May 31, 2013.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Petunia* plant by vegetative terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Bonsall, Calif. since Jun. 3, 2013 has shown that the unique features of this new *Petunia* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with

2

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 ‘USTUNJ1901’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘USTUNJ1901’ as a new and distinct *Petunia* plant:

1. Compact, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Vigorous growth habit.
4. Early and freely flowering habit.
5. Relatively small white-colored flowers with a distinct and stable blue violet star-shaped color pattern.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the female parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Petunia* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more mounding than and not as creeping as plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* and the female parent selection differ in flower color as plants of the female parent selection have solid blue-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of the male parent selection. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Petunia* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* are more mounding than and not as upright as plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* have smaller flowers than plants of the male parent selection.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of ‘USTUN34803’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,884. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Petunia* differed primarily from plants of ‘USTUN34803’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more mounding than and not as creeping as plants of 'USTUN34803'.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* and 'USTUN34803' differed in flower color as plants of 'USTUN34803' had red purple-colored flowers.

Plants of the new *Petunia* can be compared to plants of 'USTUN19603', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,675. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Petunia* differed primarily from plants of 'USTUN19603' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Petunia* were more mounding than and not as creeping as plants of 'USTUN19603'.
2. Plants of the new *Petunia* flowered earlier than plants of 'USTUN19603'.
3. Plants of the new *Petunia* and 'USTUN19603' differed in flower color as plants of 'USTUN19603' had bright pink-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'USTUNJ1901' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'USTUNJ1901'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the summer in 10-cm containers in an outdoor nursery in Bonsall, Calif. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 34° C., night temperatures ranged from 9° C. to 18° C. and light levels ranged from 7,000 to 10,000. Plants were pinched one time and were 8.5 weeks old when the photographs and 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: *Petunia*×*hybrida* 'USTUNJ1901'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida* identified as code number 09P370-01, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Petunia*×*hybrida*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 15 days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 29° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 20 days at temperatures ranging from 17° C. to 21° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer

type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit with about 38 primary and secondary lateral branches developing per plant; dense and bushy appearance; pinching enhances development of lateral branches; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 16.7 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 37 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 23 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 1.5 cm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Initially upright then outwardly spreading. Texture: Pubescent, minute. Luster: Matte. Color: Close to 144A.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate before flowering; opposite after flowers develop; leaves simple.

Length.—About 3.7 cm.

Width.—About 1.8 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Luster, upper and lower surfaces.—Matte.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate, arcuate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A; venation, close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A; venation, close to 146B.

Petioles.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent, minute. Luster, upper and lower surfaces: Matte. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146C.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single axillary salverform flowers; flowers face mostly upward to outwardly; freely flowering habit with about 13 flower buds and open flowers per lateral branch and more than 600 flowers developing per plant.

Natural flowering season.—Long day responsive; long flowering period, plants flower from early spring until frost in the autumn, flowering continuous during this period; early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about six weeks after planting.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About four to five days; flowers persistent.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.4 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Oblong, elongate. Color: Close to 183A.

Flower diameter.—Relatively small, about 2.5 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 3.2 cm.

Throat diameter, distal.—About 7 mm.

Tube length.—About 2.4 cm.

Tube diameter, proximal.—About 2.5 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: Five petals fused in a single salverform whorl. Petal lobe length (from throat): About 1.1 cm. Petal lobe width: About 1.4 cm. Petal lobe shape: Fan-shaped. Petal lobe apex:

Broadly acute with a central point. Petal lobe margin: Entire, slightly sinuate. Petal lobe texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Petal lobe texture, lower surface: Pubescent, minute. Throat texture: Smooth, glabrous. Tube texture: Pubescent, minute. Color: When opening, upper surface: Ground color, close to NN155D; star-shaped pattern, close to 83A. When opening, lower surface: Close to NN155D tinted with close to 85A. Fully opened, upper surface: Ground color, close to NN155D; star-shaped pattern, close to 83A to 83B; mid-vein, close to 83A and lateral veins, close to NN155D; color does not fade with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to NN155D; mid-vein, close to N79A and lateral veins, close to 83C and 83D; color does not fade with development. Flower throat (inside): Close to 79B; venation, close to 79B. Flower tube (outside): Close to N79B; venation, close to N79B.

Sepals.—Quantity and arrangement: Five sepals fused in a single star-shaped whorl. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2.7 cm. Width: About 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 45° to 55° from the stem axis. Texture: Pubescent; minute. Luster: Matte. Color: Close to 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Five. Filament length: About 1.8 cm. Filament color: Close to 76D. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther shape: Round. Anther color: Close to 202C. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Close to 202B. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2.1 cm. Style length: About 1.5 cm. Style color: Close to 148C. Stigma shape: Round. Stigma color: Close to 148A. Ovary color: Close to 144B.

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

Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Petunia* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Petunia* have been observed to have good garden performance and have been observed to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 3.5° C. to about 43° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Petunia* plant named 'USTUNJ1901' as illustrated and described.

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