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Bean

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(54) **AGAPANTHUS** HYBRID PLANT NAMED
‘AMPU001’

(50) Latin Name: *Agapanthus* hybrid
Varietal Denomination: AMPU001

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Agapanthus*, ‘AMPU001’, that is charac-
terized by its fast growing and fast multiplying growth habit,
a compact plant habit, inflorescences that form dense umbels
of flowers that are dark violet-purple in color, an extended
flowering season blooming and re-blooming from early
spring to late summer and sporadically in early fall, a very
floriferous blooming period producing an unusually high
number of inflorescences, and its good resistance to fungal
infection from *Macrophoma agapanthii*.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of
the novel variety disclosed herein is *Agapanthus* hybrid
‘AMPU001’.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of *Agapan-*
thus hybrid disclosed herein has been given the variety
denomination ‘AMPU001’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of *Agapanthus* hybrid, which has been named ‘AMPU001’.
Agapanthus, commonly called “lily of the Nile”, is a flow-
ering perennial native to South Africa that forms clumps of
dark green strap-like leaves. In spring, umbels rise above the
foliage which bear numerous flowers in colors ranging from
pale violet to dark purple. Its consistent size and perfor-
mance, combined with its attractive inflorescences through
its hardiness range make it an ideal choice for specimen,
borders and mass plantings in any full to filtered sun to
shady, low-maintenance landscape or container.

Parentage: The cultivar ‘AMPU001’ is a seedling selec-
tion resulting from a controlled pollination breeding pro-
gram by the Inventor in Hartebeespoort, Northwest Prov-
ince, South Africa. The objective of the breeding program is
to develop new cultivars of *Agapanthus* that are fast grow-
ing, early flowering and that display repeat flowering and
unique flower colors. The Inventor made a controlled cross
in October of 2007 between an unnamed plant of *Agapan-*
thus caulescens hybrid from the Inventor’s breeding pro-
gram as the female parent and an unnamed plant of *Aga-*
panthus campanulatus hybrid from the Inventor’s breeding
program as the male parent. The Inventor selected
‘AMPU001’ in November of 2009 as a single unique plant
amongst the seedlings that resulted from the above cross.

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Asexual Reproduction: Asexual propagation of the new
cultivar was first accomplished by division by the Inventor
in Hartebeespoort, Northwest Province, South Africa in
February of 2010. Asexual propagation by division and
tissue culture has determined that the characteristics of the
new cultivar are stable and are reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. The char-
acteristics in combination distinguish ‘AMPU001’ as a
distinct cultivar of *Agapanthus*.

1. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits a fast growing and fast multiply-
ing growth habit.
2. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits a compact plant habit.
3. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits inflorescences that form dense
umbels of flowers that are violet-purple in color.
4. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits an extended flowering season
blooming and re-blooming from early spring to late
summer and sporadically in early fall.
5. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits a very floriferous blooming
period producing an unusually high number of inflo-
rescences.
6. ‘AMPU001’ exhibits good resistance to fungal infec-
tion from *Macrophoma agapanthii*.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows as true as is reasonably possible to obtain in
color photographs of this type, an exemplary ‘AMPU001’
specimen, approximately 12 months of age, grown at a
wholesale nursery in Hartebeespoort, Northwest Province,
South Africa.

FIG. 2 shows as true as is reasonably possible to obtain in color photographs of this type, an exemplary umbel of 'AMPU001'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY

The following is a detailed botanical description of a new and distinct *Agapanthus* hybrid seedling selection known as 'AMPU001'. Unless indicated otherwise, the descriptions disclosed herein are based upon observations made in May 2014 of mature 'AMPU001' plants, approximately 12 months of age, grown at a wholesale nursery facility in Hartebeespoort, Northwest Province, South Africa. Plants were grown in full sun; fertilized with slow release granular fertilizer and regularly watered with overhead irrigation. No pest or disease measures were taken during production.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that certain characteristics will vary with older or, conversely, with younger plants. 'AMPU001' 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, 1986 edition. Note that generic color descriptions such as "green" do not exist in The R.H.S. charts and the corresponding R.H.S. colors are quoted.

The distinguishing features and other characteristics of *Agapanthus* hybrid 'AMPU001' are apparent from the description provided below.

General plant description:

Plant habit.—Rhizomatous herbaceous perennial with an arching habit.

Height.—30 cm to the tallest leaf, as measured; 46 cm to the top of the floral plane.

Width.—30 cm, as measured.

Bloom period.—AMPU001 exhibits an extended flowering season, blooming and re-blooming from early spring to late summer and sporadically in early fall.

Hardiness.—USDA Zone 9 to 10.

Environmental tolerances.—Prefers to be grown in full sun. Drought tolerant once established; moderate to good recovery with watering after severe wilting. Tolerates a wide range of soil types from sandy loam to loamy clay.

Pest and disease susceptibility or resistance.—'AMPU001' exhibits good resistance to fungal infection from *Macrophoma agapanthii*.

Propagation.—Propagation is accomplished through division of rhizomes.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 3 weeks.

Crop time.—Depending on latitude of and microclimate of growing location, a fully rooted cutting requires approximately 3 months with an additional 5 to 7 months needed to produce a mature and marketable 15 cm container.

Roots: The roots are fibrous and freely-branched, colored white, fleshy, similar to other *Agapanthus*; high root density.

Stem:

Branching habit.—Acaulescent, rhizomatous plant with shoots emerging from rhizomes with an upright attitude.

Basal shoots:

Shoots density.—6 divisions, or propagules, per one square foot area, with the oldest propagules near the center of the plant's crown possessing 12 to 14 leaves and shoots of varying ages and sizes.

Shoot strength.—Medium.

Cross section.—Concave.

Shoot color (adaxial & abaxial surfaces).—Yellow-green RHS 144A.

Shoot surface texture.—Smooth.

Foliage:

Type.—Evergreen.

Arrangement.—Basal.

Division.—Simple.

Attitude.—Arched.

Shape.—Linear.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Sheathed.

Cross section.—Flat.

Venation.—Parallel.

Vein color (adaxial surfaces).—Same as surrounding foliage.

Vein color (abaxial surfaces).—Same as surrounding foliage.

Margins.—Entire.

Attachment.—Acaulescent.

Texture.—Smooth and glossy.

Surface hairiness (adaxial surface).—Glabrous.

Surfaces hairiness (abaxial surface).—Glabrous.

Mature leaf dimensions.—Longest observed leaf measuring length 310 mm, average width 28 mm at widest point.

Mature leaf color (adaxial & abaxial surface).—Green RHS 143B and Yellow-green RHS 144A, respectively.

Petiole.—Leaves are acaulescent; sessile.

Stipules.—Absent.

Inflorescence:

Inflorescence type.—Umbellate.

Umbel diameter.—Largest observed is 130 mm wide.

Umbel depth.—Largest observed is 50 to 60 mm deep.

Number of umbels per pot.—Potentially more than one inflorescence per propagule, per growing season.

Number of flowers per umbel.—More than 55 flowers and buds may be present at any given time.

Scape dimensions.—Largest observed measuring at 375 mm tall and 8 mm wide at the base, as measured.

Other characteristics of scape.—Color is Green RHS 143B; cylindrical shape; texture is smooth; glabrous.

Buds:

Bud shape.—Obelliptic; apex round; base cuneate.

Bud dimensions.—34 mm long and 8 mm wide, prior to anthesis.

Bud color.—Purple RHS 79B.

Bud texture.—Glabrous.

Flowers:

General.—Apetalous flowers; shape is campanulate; self-cleaning and non-fragrant. Attitude is upward and outward.

Lastingness.—Approximately 7 days.

Pedicle dimensions.—18 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, as measured.

Pedicle color.—Green RHS 143B.

Pedicle surface.—Glabrous.

Perianth dimensions.—Approximately 42 mm in diameter and 32 mm deep, at anthesis.

Tepals.—Six basally fused tepals.

Tepal shape.—Oblanceolate; apex is round.

Tepal dimensions.—34 mm long and 13 mm wide, as measured.

Outer tepal color.—Purple RHS 79D, yet appearing as Violet RHS 82A under high light exposure.

Inner tepal color.—Violet RHS 82A at and near the midrib, with purple RHS 77D in areas between margins and midrib.

Tepal surface.—Smooth; glabrous.

Tepal margin.—Entire.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—Six.

Stamen attachment.—Each is adnate to a corresponding tepal.

Filament color.—Purple RHS 77D at base, becoming Purple RHS 79D near apex.

Filament dimensions.—20 mm long and less than 1 mm wide.

Anther attachment.—Versatile.

Anther dimensions.—1.5 to 2 mm long and 1 to 1.5 mm wide.

Anther color.—Appearing as a mixture of Black RHS 202A and Green-yellow RHS 1B.

Pollen.—Present; high quantity; color appears to be Green-Yellow RHS 1B.

Pistil.—One.

Pistil dimensions.—18 mm long, from apex of ovary; width is less than 1 mm.

Pistil color.—Purple RHS 77D at base, becoming Purple RHS 79D near apex.

Style length.—1.7 cm.

Style color.—Purple RHS 77D and becoming Purple RHS 79D towards the distal end.

Stigma shape.—Capitate.

Stigma length.—0.075 cm.

Stigma diameter.—0.075 cm.

Stigma color.—Purple RHS 79D.

Ovary shape.—Oblong.

Ovary color.—Yellow-Green RHS 150B.

Ovary dimensions.—7.5 mm long and 2.5 mm wide.

Ovary position.—Superior.

Fruit and seeds: Not observed.

COMPARISONS WITH THE PARENTS

The female parent of 'AMPU001' differs from 'AMPU001' in having a shorter flowering season, in having few flowers per inflorescence, and in producing fewer inflorescences.

The male parent of 'AMPU001' differs from 'AMPU001' in being slower growing, in having a shorter flowering season, in being more susceptible to disease, and in having flowers that are dark blue in color.

COMPARISONS WITH SIMILAR *AGAPANTHUS* HYBRID CULTIVARS KNOWN TO THE INVENTOR

'AMPU001' can be most closely compared to the *Agapanthus* cultivars 'Benfran' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,705) and 'ATIBlu' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,332). 'Benfran' is similar to 'AMPU001' in having a compact plant habit and in being fast to multiply. 'Benfran' differs from 'AMPU001' in being less cold tolerant, in having flowers that are light blue in color, in having fewer inflorescences, and in exhibiting very little to no re-blooming. 'ATIBlu' is similar to 'AMPU001' in being a prolific producer of inflorescences and in exhibiting good cold tolerance. 'ATIBlu' differs from 'AMPU001' in having flowers that are pale blue in color, in having a shorter flowering season, in exhibiting less re-blooming, in having flowering stems that are taller in height, and in having leaves that are narrower.

That which is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct *Agapanthus* hybrid plant named 'AMPU001', substantially as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

