



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Salman

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(54) **SALVIA PLANT NAMED ‘LITTLE NIGHT’**

(50) Latin Name: *Salvia nemerosa* (superba)
Varietal Denomination: **Little Night**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./475**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC Plt./475
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of European Meadow Sage
named ‘Little Night’ that is characterized by its dwarf,
compact habit and dark violet-blue flowers. Additionally, the
flowering stems (spikes) are short and compact with small-
sized foliage.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
The ornamental plant variety of this invention is botanically
identified as *Salvia nemerosa* (superba).

Variety denomination: The variety denomination is ‘Little
Night’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct plant
variety of *Salvia nemerosa* (superba), more commonly
known as European Meadow Sage. The new variety has
dwarf-like characteristics, including: compact growth habit;
short, compact flowering stems (spikes); and small-sized
foliage.

European Meadow Sage is a perennial, ornamental plant
used in garden landscapes. Its attractive violet-blue flowers
and adaptation to a variety of soil conditions, including clay,
contribute to its broad market appeal and utilization.

Discovered and asexually propagated by the inventor,
‘Little Night’ was selected from a cultivated area in a
residential garden located in Salt Lake City, Utah on Jun. 8,
2011. While the exact parentage of the present invention is
uncertain, ‘Little Night’ is likely an un-hybridized garden
seedling of *Salvia nemerosa* (superba) ‘May Night’. This
statement is based on the observation of the surrounding
plants where the invention was discovered in that ‘May
Night’ was the only species of *salvia* plants in the area.
‘Little Night’ distinguished itself from the surrounding seed-
lings through its much smaller mature-sized stems and the
shorter length of flower spikes.

2

In July 2011, the discovered invention was transported
and replanted into a pot and cultivated in a greenhouse
located in Santa Fe, N.Mex. where it was observed for two
years. Also, propagation via vegetative cuttings of the origi-
nally transported plant began in August of 2011 under the
direction of the inventor of the present invention. The
method utilized softwood cuttings dipped in a standard-
strength rooting hormone. The cuttings were then placed
under intermittent mist for approximately 4 weeks until they
rooted. Propagation testing continued at the greenhouse
located in Santa Fe, N.Mex. of the rooted cuttings for two
generations. These cuttings maintained the small size, flower
color and other characteristics of the discovered invention.
Additional cuttings were taken from 2nd generation plants
grown from cuttings of the discovered invention, which also
maintained the small size, flower color and other character-
istics of the discovered invention. This testing demonstrated
that the distinct characteristics described herein are true-to-
type and transmissible by asexual reproduction with unifor-
mity and stability. These results were confirmed via addi-
tional testing in Landenberg, Pa. in May 2014.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits represent the characteristics of the
new variety ‘Little Night’. These traits in combination
distinguish this variety from all other commercial varieties
known to the inventor.

1. Dwarf, compact habit;
2. Short, compact flowering stems (spikes) with small-
sized foliage; and
3. Dark violet flowers.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this variety have not been applied for and 'Little Night' has not been offered for sale more than a year before the filing date of this application. 'Little Night' has not been promoted under any other breeder's reference or cultivar name.

Plants of 'Little Night' have not been observed under all possible environmental and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions, for example, with fluctuation in temperature, soil chemistry, and photoperiod without, however, any variance in genotype.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH(S)

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall, typical appearance of the new and distinct *salvia* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of conventional photography. Due to color variation reproduced in the photographs, color characteristics of this new variety should be determined with reference to the observations described herein, rather than a reliance on the photographs alone. Photographs were taken outdoors in May and June 2014 unless otherwise indicated. The different photographs are intended to represent the distinctive characteristics of 'Little Night'.

FIG. 1 (taken in April 2014) is a close up view of the flower spikes and leaves.

FIG. 2, taken indoors under natural light in a greenhouse setting, demonstrates the size of 18 month-old plants growing in #1 gallon pots as compared to the size of a felt-tip marker.

FIG. 3 is a close-up of the foliage.

FIG. 4 demonstrates the overall habit and coloration of the invention.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new variety 'Little Night'. Data was collected from a plant approximately 18 months-old in June 2014. The color determinations are in accordance with The 2007 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural Society (London, England), except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used and color readings were observed under natural, outdoor light.

VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
Classification:	
Botanical:	<i>Salvia nemerosa (superba)</i>
Common:	European Meadow Sage
Parentage:	
Female:	Unknown, likely the commercially available, <i>Salvia nemerosa (superba)</i> named 'May Night' (unpatented)
Male:	Unknown
Propagation:	
Vegetatively	

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VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
Plant:	
Ploidy:	Diploid
Height, unpruned (m):	Short, 15.5 to 18.0 cm (stems) and 25.5 to 28.0 cm (flower spikes)
Spread (cm):	36.0 to 46.0 cm
Vigor:	Moderate
Growth habit:	Compact, upright growing stems and flower spikes
Life cycle duration:	Perennial
Cold tolerance:	USDA zone 4
Optimal temperature range:	Very tolerant of a wide range of growing temperatures
Lateral Branch:	
Quantity per plant:	8 to 12
Strength:	Strong
Length, from point of attachment of the upper lateral branch to the top (cm):	5.0 to 20.0 cm
Diameter (mm or cm):	2.0 mm measured from base of lateral branch
Texture:	Smooth and slightly pubescent
Color:	RHS Green 143 B
Internode length (cm):	1.5 to 3.0 cm
Internode color:	RHS Green 143 B
Leaves:	
Quantity of leaves per lateral branch, average:	12 to 20
Arrangement:	Opposite, decussate
Size (lamina average):	
Length (mm):	40.0 mm
Width (mm):	Medium, 15.0 mm
Type:	Simple
Shape:	Oblong to lanceolate at top
Apex:	Rounded to acute at top
Base:	Cordate to oblique rounded
Margin:	Crenate
Cross section:	Flat
Leaf blade length (mm):	10.0 to 30.0 mm (at top); 40.0 to 50.0 (at base)
Leaf blade width (mm):	12.0 to 20.0 mm
Venation:	Slightly reticulate on bottom
Surface:	
Upper surface texture:	Glabrous and slightly grooved
Lower surface texture:	Net veined and slightly pubescent especially on veins
Petiole:	
Shape:	Straight with slight flare at stem attachment on lower leaves, petiolate on lower leaves only and upper leaves are sessile
Thorns, Spines:	Absent
Length (mm):	2.0 to 20.0 mm
Width (mm):	1.0 to 2.0 mm
Flowers:	
Inflorescence Type:	Verticillaster
Age of plant when first bloom:	12 months
Bloom habit (frequency in the season):	Recurrent
Time of year for first bloom:	Late spring (mid-May in USDA zone 6)
Length of blooming time (days):	4 weeks
Color:	
Upon opening:	RHS Violet N-88A
Aged:	RHS Purple-Violet N82-A
New bracts upon opening:	RHS Red-Purple 72-A
Aged bracts:	RHS Green 143B
Structure (eg. Complete):	Complete, bilabiate
Average size:	
Length (mm):	10.5 mm
Width (mm):	7.0 mm
Arrangement:	Whorled around central axis of stem
Type:	6 per false whorl
Fragrance:	None

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VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
Bud:	5
Shape: Rounded to scale-like (immature), round (mature)	
Length (mm):	
Immature: 2.5 mm	
Mature: 5.5 mm	
Width (mm):	10
Immature: 1.25 mm	
Mature: 2.6 mm	
Color, mature (before opening): RHS Green 143 B tipped with RHS Violet N88B	
Petal:	15
Number, average: 5	
Arrangement: Bilabiate	
Length (mm):	
Posterior lip: 8.2 mm	
Anterior lip: 6.8 mm	
Width (mm):	20
Posterior lip: 1.1 mm	
Anterior lip: 3.8 mm	
Shape: Bilabiate: fused at bottom, zygomorphic	
Apex shape: Rounded	
Base shape: Fused into tube	
Margin: Smooth	
Pubescence: Sparsely pubescent on exterior of petal	
Color: RHS Violet N88 A	
Throat:	30
Length (mm): 4.3 mm	
Width (mm): 1.7 mm	
Color (taken of a 3-year-old plant): RHS N87A (Violet group)	
Sepals:	
Number (per flower): 5	
Shape: Slightly bilabiate	
Length (mm): 5.5 mm	
Width (mm): 2.25 mm	
Apex: Lanceolate	
Texture: Smooth	
Color (taken of a 3-year-old plant): RHS N78A (purple group) aging to 138B (green group) with N78A streaking and tip	
Peduncle:	40
Length (mm): 12.0 to 18.0 mm	
Diameter (mm): 2.0 to 2.5 mm	
Angle: 180°	
Texture: Stem-like, smooth with slight pubescence	
Color (taken of a 3-year-old plant): RHS 147B (yellow-green group)	
Pedicel:	
Length (mm): 1.0 mm	
Width (mm): 0.7 mm	
Color (taken of a 3-year-old plant): RHS 61B (red-purple group) aging to N145C (yellow-green group)	
Calyx:	
Shape: United at base with lanceolate tips, slightly bilabiate	
Length (mm): 5.5 mm	
Diameter (mm): 1.0 mm	
Reproductive Organs:	
Fertility, self: No	
Stamen:	
Number: 2	
Length (mm): 1.5 mm	

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VARIETY DESCRIPTION	
Anther:	
Length (mm): 0.5 mm	
Width (mm): 0.1 mm	
Filament length (mm): 1.0 mm	
Pistil	
Number: 1	
Length (mm): 11.0 mm	
Style	
Length (mm): 8.0 mm	
Width (mm): 0.4 mm	
Ovary	
Shape: Round	
Diameter (mm): 0.85 mm	
Pollen	
Amount: Minimal	
Color: Yellow	
Seed	
Quantity: Up to 4 per flower	
Shape: Round	
Texture: Hard, smooth	
Color: RHS 177A (greyed-orange group)	
Diameter (mm): 1.3 mm	
Fruit	
Type: Schizocarp	
Diameter (mm): 2.2 mm	

Best mode growing conditions:
Soil conditions.—Grows well in all types of soil conditions, including clay.
Water use/drought tolerance.—Drought tolerant, xeric when planted in the ground.
Fertilization.—None required for propagation, add standard water soluble 15-15-15 or similar formulation weekly during growing season.
Known pest susceptibility: Spider Mites.

COMPARISON TO SIMILAR VARIETIES

In comparison to the likely female parent, a commercially available, unpatented variety of *Salvia nemerosa* (superba) named ‘May Night’, the growth habit of the said invention, ‘Little Night’, is much more compact. ‘Little Night’ also has shorter, more compact flowering stems (spikes) and smaller foliage size.
The male parent is unknown; therefore, no comparison can be made.
‘Little Night’ differs from the commercially available *Salvia nemerosa* named ‘Haeumanarc’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,322), known commercially as Marcus, in that the flowers of ‘Little Night’ are a much darker violet, the flower spikes are thinner in diameter and more compact, the plant height in the flower and stem portions are shorter than ‘Haeumanarc’ by a few centimeters, and the parentage is different.
I claim:
1. A new and distinct *Salvia* plant as herein described and illustrated.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

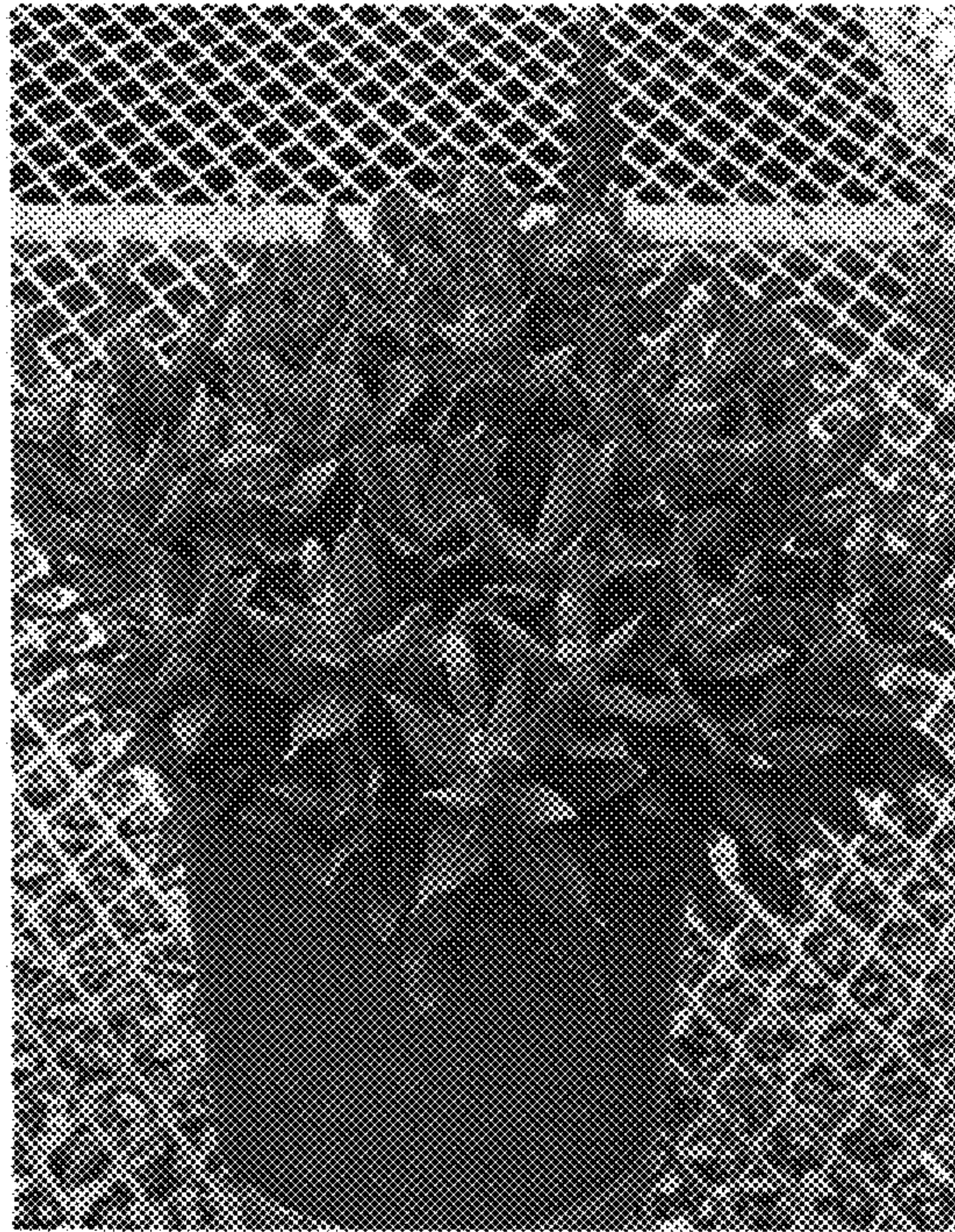


FIG. 3



FIG. 4