



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(54) **PORTULACA PLANT NAMED ‘LAZPRT1612’**

(50) Latin Name: *Portulaca umbraticola* Kunth
Varietal Denomination: **LAZPRT1612**

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USPC **Plt./471**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Portulaca* plant named
‘LAZPRT1612’, characterized by its outwardly spreading to
creeping growth habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branch-
ing habit; freely flowering habit; red purple and yellow-
colored flowers; and excellent garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Portulaca umbraticola* Kunth.
Cultivar denomination: ‘LAZPRT1612’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Portulaca* plant, botanically known as *Portulaca umbra-*
ticola Kunth, commonly known as Wingpod Purslane, and
hereinafter referred to by the name ‘LAZPRT1612’.

The new *Portulaca* plant is a product of a planned
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Merano,
South Tyrol, Italy. The objective of the breeding program is
to create new vigorous and freely branching *Portulaca*
plants with numerous unique and attractive flowers.

The new *Portulaca* plant is a naturally-occurring branch
mutation of a proprietary selection of *Portulaca umbraticola*
Kunth identified as code number 09/123-1, not patented. The
new *Portulaca* plant was discovered and selected by the
Inventor on a single flowering plant from within a popula-
tion of plants of the parent selection in a controlled green-
house environment in Merano, South Tyrol, Italy during the
spring of 2014.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Portulaca* plant by
terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in
Merano, South Tyrol, Italy since the spring of 2014, has
shown that the unique features of this new *Portulaca* plant
are stable and reproduced true to type in successive genera-
tions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Portulaca* have not been observed under
all possible combinations of 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 geno-
type.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of

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‘LAZPRT1612’. These characteristics in combination dis-
tinguish ‘LAZPRT1612’ as a new and distinct *Portulaca*
plant:

1. Outwardly spreading to creeping growth habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Red purple and yellow-colored flowers.
6. Excellent garden performance.

Plants of the new *Portulaca* can be compared to plants of
the parent selection. Plants of the new *Portulaca* differ
primarily from plants of the parent selection in flower color
as plants of the parent selection have a less intense (lower
contrast) flower color pattern that is unstable. In addition,
plants of the new *Portulaca* are more freely branching and
have larger flowers than plants of the parent selection.

Plants of the new *Portulaca* can be compared to plants of
Portulaca oleracea ‘Kakegawa CY2’, disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 14,149. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of
the new *Portulaca* differ primarily from plants of
‘Kakegawa CY2’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Portulaca* are more compact than
plants of ‘Kakegawa CY2’.
2. Plants of the new *Portulaca* are more creeping than and
not as upright as plants of ‘Kakegawa CY2’.
3. Plants of the new *Portulaca* have larger flowers than
plants of ‘Kakegawa CY2’.
4. Plants of the new *Portulaca* and ‘Kakegawa CY2’
differ in petal color as plants of ‘Kakegawa CY2’ have
yellow-colored petals with purple-colored stripes.

Plants of the new *Portulaca* can also be compared to
plants of *Portulaca oleracea* ‘Duet Red on Yellow’, not
patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new
Portulaca differ primarily from plants of ‘Duet Red on
Yellow’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Portulaca* are more compact than
plants of ‘Duet Red on Yellow’.
2. Plants of the new *Portulaca* are more creeping than and
not as upright as plants of ‘Duet Red on Yellow’.

3. Plants of the new *Portulaca* have larger flowers than plants of 'Duet Red on Yellow'.
4. Flower color pattern of plants of the new *Portulaca* is more stable than flower color pattern of 'Duet Red on Yellow'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Portulaca* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Portulaca* plant.

The photograph is a close-up view of a typical flowering plant of 'LAZPRT1612'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in 13-cm containers during the spring and summer in an outdoor nursery in Merano, South Tyrol, Italy and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Portulaca* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures ranged from 13.8° C. to 28.6° C. and light levels ranged from 60 to 70 klux. Plants were four months old when the photographs and the description were taken. In the description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Portulaca umbraticola* Kunth 'LAZPRT1612'.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring branch mutation of a proprietary selection of *Portulaca umbraticola* Kunth identified as code number 09/123-1, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 10 days at temperatures about 22° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 14 days at temperatures about 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 24 days at temperatures about 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 28 days at temperatures about 15° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; typically pale creamy white in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizers, substrate temperature and age of roots.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Spreading to creeping plant habit; vigorous growth habit; relatively rapid growth rate.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit with lateral branches developing at every node; pinching is not required.

Overall plant height.—About 15 cm.

Plant diameter (area of spread).—About 40 cm.

Lateral branch description:

Length.—About 30 cm to 50 cm.

Diameter.—About 4 mm.

Internode length.—About 2 mm to 20 mm.

Strength.—Moderately strong.

Texture.—Smooth, glabrous; succulent.

Color.—Close to 148A underlain with close to 185B.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate; simple.

Length.—About 1.6 cm to 2.2 cm.

Width.—About 9 mm to 13 mm.

Shape.—Obovate.

Apex.—Initially slightly acute becoming more rounded with development.

Base.—Obtuse.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous; succulent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 148B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 147A; when exposed to full sunlight, margins become closer to 185B in color; venation, close to 147B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 147B; venation, close to 147B.

Petioles.—Length: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; succulent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146B. Color, lower surface: Close to 146C.

Flower description:

Flowering habit and arrangement.—Single rotate flowers clustered in terminal cymes; freely flowering habit with potentially about 15 to 30 flowers developing per inflorescence; flowers face mostly upright; flowers sessile.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Natural flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about six to eight weeks after planting; in the garden, plants flower recurrently from mid-spring to mid-autumn in Italy.

Flower longevity.—Flowers last about three days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 5 cm.

Inflorescence height.—About 2 cm to 3 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 3.5 cm to 4.5 cm.

Flower length (height).—About 1.5 cm to 2 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm to 5 mm. Shape: Ovoid to lanceolate. Color: Close to 146B.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: Five petals in a single whorl. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 1.6 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Emarginate to cordate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 21A and close to 45B and 74A; after anthesis, colors become closer to between 59A and 71A. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 17B and close to 45C and 74A; after anthesis, colors become closer to between 59A and 71A.

Sepals.—Quantity and arrangement: Two, opposite. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 7 mm. Shape: Deltoid. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Color, upper surface: Close to 147C. Color, lower surface: Close to 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: About 50 to 60. Filament length: About 5 mm to 6 mm. Anther shape: Elliptic. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 25B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 23A. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style length: About 1 cm.

Fruits.—Length: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Texture: Succulent to leathery.

Seeds.—Quantity per flower: About ten. Diameter: About 1 mm. Color: Greyish black.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Portulaca* have been observed to have excellent garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind, drought, heat and low temperatures about 10° C.

5 Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Portulaca* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Portulaca* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Portulaca* plant named
10 'LAZPRT1612' as illustrated and described.

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