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[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED VIENNA

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[57] ABSTRACT

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A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Vienna characterized by its extra growth habit (35–45 cm in diameter); purplish blue, single violet-shaped flowers; strong stems which curve toward the center to form a bouquet above the leaves; profuse flowering; large, medium green, spear-shaped leaves; flowering 12–13 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot, and by its long lasting and non-dropping flowers.

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[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./69.2

[58] Field of Search Plt. 69.1, 69.2

Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of African violet plant, botanically known as *Saintpaulia ionantha*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name Vienna.

The new cultivar was referred to during the breeding and selection process by the designation H 5/1/13 13 and is a product of a planned breeding program. The cultivar was originated from a cross made by me in the controlled breeding program in Haffen, Federal Republic of Germany. The female, or seed parent, was a cultivar designed H 5/1. The male, or pollen parent, was a cultivar designed 101/6.

Vienna was discovered and selected by me as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Haffen, West Germany. Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by leaf cuttings, as performed by me at Haffen, West Germany, has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

Vienna has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and day length. The following observations, measurements and values describe the new cultivar as grown in a 15 cm pot in Haffen, West Germany and Nashville, Tenn. under greenhouse conditions which closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of Vienna, which in combination distinguish this African violet as a new and distinct cultivar:

(1) Vienna will grow as large as 35–45 cm in diameter.

(2) Single violet-shaped, purplish blue flowers.

(3) Strong, wirelike and upright flower stems curving toward the center.

(4) First flash of flowers forms a bouquet above the leaves.

(5) Profuse flowering.

(6) Each plant carries 9–11 and more upright flower stems each of which carries 12–15 and more flowers.

(7) Long lasting, non-dropping flowers.

(8) Plant saleable 12 to 13 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot.

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(9) Seed capsules push slightly through.

(10) Large medium green, spear-shaped leaves.

(11) After maturity the flowers dry off, and remain on the peduncle without becoming infected by botrytis.

The accompanying color photographic drawing shows a typical specimen plant of the new cultivar grown in a 15 cm pot. The colors appearing in the photograph are as true as possible with color illustrations of this type.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart (R.H.S.), except where general colors of ordinary significance are referred to. Color values were taken under natural sunlight conditions at approximately 12 p.m. in Nashville, Tenn.

Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat., c.v. Vienna.

Parentage:

Male parent.—101/6.

Female parent.—H 5/1.

Propagation: The new cultivar holds its distinguishing characteristics through successive propagations by leaf cuttings.

Plant: From 11 cm to 14 cm tall when grown in pots, and 35–45 cm in diameter when fully grown.

Leaves:

General form.—Spear-shaped.

Diameter.—70–80 mm wide and 85–100 mm long.

Texture.—Leatherlike.

Aspect.—Hairy, shiny, slightly serrated.

Veins.—Upperside: visible; underside: well pronounced, light green, shiny; veins on young leaves are purplish red.

Color (upperside).—Yellow-Green Group 147 A.

Color (underside).—Greyed-Green Group 194 C.

Petiole.—Strong, green, occasionally brownish green, hairy.

Flowers:

Buds.—Size: 8–11 mm just before opening. Shape: Ball-shaped. Color: Purplish blue.

Sepals.—Five (5). Color: Purplish brown.

Calyx.—Shape: Funnel-shaped. Aspect: Spear-shaped, hairy.

Peduncle.—Character: Strong upright, hairy. Color: Purplish brown.

Individual flowers:

Size.—45-50 mm.

Shape.—Single violet-shaped (3 large, 2 1 small petals).

Color (upperside).—Violet-Blue Group 89 B. Under cooler temperatures and more intensive lighting, the purplish blue tends to intensify.

Color (underside).—Violet-blue Group 89 B to C.

Borne.—Each flower stem carries 12-17 and more flowers on strong, upright peduncles that are free standing above the leaves, thereby forming a bouquet.

Flowering habit.—Flowers 12-13 weeks after planting an unrooted plantlet.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—Two (2). Anthers: 2 composed of 4 anther cells, seed capsule pushes slightly through.

Filaments. 13 Yellowish green, 4-5 mm long.

Styles.—6-7 mm long, purplish blue, base of ovary light green and hairy.

Roots: Normally developed, white when young, turning slightly brownish when older.

Disease resistance: Up to date, Vienna has shown very good resistance to all major violet diseases.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Vienna is a very attractive cultivar due to its extra large growth habit. It is designed to be grown in a 15 cm pot (instead of the regular 10 cm pot (instead of the regular 10 cm pot) and will grow as large as 35-45 cm in diameter. (The diameter can vary depending on how firmly the potting medium is compressed). A nice bouquet of flowers free standing above the leaves develops 12-13 weeks after planting an unrooted plantlet. Each of the 9-11 and more strong flower stems carries 12-15 and more single violet-shaped, purplish blue flowers contrasting nicely with the bright yellow anthers. The flowers are long-lasting and non-dropping. The bouquet is surrounded by large, medium green, spear-shaped leaves.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Vienna, as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its extra large growth habit (35-45 cm in diameter); purplish blue, single violet-shaped flowers; strong stems which curve toward the center to form a bouquet above the leaves; profuse flowering; large, medium green, spear-shaped leaves; flowering 12-13 weeks after planting of unrooted shoot, and by its long lasting and non-dropping flowers.

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