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[54] NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED 'KIMPTOL'

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[57] ABSTRACT

[73] Assignee: Paul Ecke Ranch, Inc., Encinitas, Calif.

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Kimptol', characterized by its small and numerous magenta-colored flowers; very compact, rounded, mounding, somewhat upright, dense and bushy plant habit; short internodes; very freely branching habit; and small dark green leaves.

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[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./318

[58] Field of Search Plt./318

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant, botanically known as *Impatiens hawkeri*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Kimptol'.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Gensingen, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to develop compact varieties with numerous small flowers, early-flowering, uniform plant habit, attractive flower and foliage colors and good flower form. The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the Inventor of the cultivar 'Kitol' (not patented), as the male, or pollen parent, with the proprietary selection identified as B 223 as the female, or seed parent. The cultivar 'Kimptol' was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Gensingen, Germany, in April, 1995. Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Gensingen, Germany, has shown that the unique features of this new Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Kimptol'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Kimptol' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Small and numerous magenta-colored flowers.
2. Very compact, rounded, mounding, dense and bushy plant habit.
3. Short internodes.
4. Very freely branching habit.
5. Small dark green leaves.

Plants of the New Guinea Impatiens are more vigorous, and have longer peduncles and brighter flower color than plants of the male parent, 'Kitol'. Compared to plants of the female parent, B 223, plants of the new New Guinea Impatiens are less vigorous and have darker-colored flowers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as

true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Kimptol'. Flower and foliage colors in the photograph may differ from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar 'Kimptol' has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe plants grown in 10-cm pots in Encinitas, Calif., under commercial practice in a fiberglass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures ranging from 23 to 29° C. and night temperatures ranging from 16 to 18° C. and light levels of about 3,000 footcandles.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

25 Classification:

Botanical.—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Kimptol'.

Commercial.—New Guinea Impatiens cultivar 'Kimptol'.

Parentage.

30 *Male parent.*—*Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar 'Kitol', not patented.

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Impatiens hawkeri* identified as B 223.

Propagation:

35 *Type cutting.*—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 14 days with 21° C. soil temperature. Winter: About 18 days with 21° C. soil temperature.

Time to develop roots.—Summer: About 21 days with 21° C. soil temperature. Winter: About 25 days with 21° C. soil temperature.

Plant description:

Plant form.—Very compact, rounded, mounding, upright and somewhat spreading.

45 *Growth habit.*—Moderately vigorous. Very freely branching, dense and bushy growth. Appropriate for 10 and 12.5-cm containers.

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Crop time.—From planting of a rooted cutting, about six to eight weeks are required to produce a finished flowering plant in a 12.5-cm container.

Plant size.—Height: About 17.5 cm. Width or spread: About 28 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity: About fourteen with numerous secondary laterals. Length: About 12 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 1.8 cm. Color: 59A.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, opposite or in whorls of about four, horizontal to plant. Mostly flat. Length: About 5 cm. Width: About 2.4 cm. Shape: Narrowly ovate with acute apex, attenuate base and serrulate margin. Texture: Smooth, slightly shiny. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: 147A. Young foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Darker than 147A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B. Venation, upper surface: 144C. Venation, lower surface: 59B. Petiole: Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Color: 59B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Small magenta-colored flowers. Freely and continuously flowering. Flowers arise from leaf axils. Usually about eight flowers per lateral branch. Flowers positioned mostly above the foliage and typically face upward. Flowers generally flat and rounded. Flowers persistent.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering is continuous from spring until fall. Flowers typically last less than one week depending on environmental and cultural conditions.

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Flower size.—Length: About 3.5 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm. Depth: About 7 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.3 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 60C.

Petals.—Quantity: Five. Length: Upper petal: About 1.8 cm. Middle petals: About 2 cm. Lower petals: About 2 cm. Width: Upper petal: About 2.5 cm. Middle petals: About 1.8 cm. Lower petals: About 1.8 cm. Shape: Cordate with emarginate apex, cuneate base and entire margin. Texture: Velvety, smooth. Color: When opening, upper surface: Darker and brighter than 57A. When opening, lower surface: 57C. Fully opened, upper surface: Slightly darker than 57A. Flower color resists fading. Fully opened, lower surface: 57C.

Spur.—Length: About 3.9 cm. Shape: Narrow and curved. Color: Proximal, 60B; distal, 60A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 3.4 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: Upright and outward. Strength: Moderately strong. Color: 60A/60B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five, anthers fused, filaments free. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther size: 3 mm by 4 mm. Anther color: 158A. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: 155A. Gynoecium: Five-loculate fused. Gynoecium color: 144B.

Disease resistance: Under commercial conditions, resistance to pathogens has not been observed.

Seed development: Seed production has not been observed. It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Kimptol', as illustrated and described.

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