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Falstad et al.

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(54) **BRUNNERA MACROPHYLLA PLANT NAMED**
'LOOKING GLASS'

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./263**

See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Brunnera macrophylla*
Varietal Denomination: **Looking Glass**

(56) **References Cited**

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(US)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP13,706 P3 4/2003 Hirsch et al.
PP13,859 P3 6/2003 Walters

(73) Assignee: **Walters Gardens, Inc.**, Zeeland, MI
(US)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 866 days.

EP 9772 P 3/2003

Primary Examiner—Kent Bell

(21) Appl. No.: **10/724,961**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 1, 2003**

The new and distinctive cultivar of *Brunnera* named 'Look-
ing Glass' with light blue flowers in the spring and charac-
terized by an intense silver coating on top of the leaves,
suitable for specimen or mass landscape usage, or potted
culture.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

2 Drawing Sheets

1

2

Botanical classification: *Brunnera macrophylla* (Adams)
I. M. Johnston.
Variety denomination: 'Looking Glass'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

SUMMARY, BACKGROUND AND ORIGIN OF
THE PLANT

Brunnera macrophylla 'Looking Glass' is very similar to
'Jack Frost' in habit, size and flowering. The major differ-
ence is the intensity of silver, and the amount of silver on the
surface of the leaf. The leaves of 'Looking Glass' are almost
uniform silver in color with just a thin line of green at the
major veins and around the very margin of the leaves.

The new and distinct *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Looking
Glass', hereinafter also referred to as 'Looking Glass' and
'the Plant,' is a new and unique sport of the cultivar
Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' U.S. Plant Pat. No.
13,859. The Plant has been asexually propagated by careful
tissue culture propagation of the shoot tips, at the same
nursery in Zeeland, Mich. Tissue culture has produced plants
identical to the originally discovered sport, and maintains
those unique characteristics in subsequent generations.

COMPARISON TO SIMILAR VARIETIES

Brunnera macrophylla (Adams) Johnst. is a hardy,
herbaceous, sub-alpine perennial native to eastern Asia,
western Caucasus and Mediterranean Europe. It has many
common names, among them: Alkanet, Siberian Bugloss,
and Forget-me-not.

Brunnera macrophylla 'Looking Glass' is a sport of
Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' U.S. Plant Pat. No.
13,859, and is unique as a result of the amount of silver on
the leaves. 'Looking Glass' is almost all silver on mature
plants whereas the cultivar 'Jack Frost' has wider green
veins and broader green margins. Other selections of *Brun-*
nera macrophylla include: a white margined cultivar named
'Variegata' (not patented), or also sometimes called 'Daw-
son's White' (not patented); a creamy yellow margined type
named 'Hadspen Cream' (not patented) discovered by Eric
Smith of England; 'Langtrees' (not patented), which has
some silver barring on the leaves in a chevron pattern;
'Silver Wings' U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,706, with a small
coating of silver and a very thin creamy white chimeral
margin on the leaves. There are also some white flowered
forms called 'Betsy Baring' (not patented), 'Betty Bowring'
(not patented) and 'Marley's White' (not patented), and a
new cultivar with normal green leaves and white and blue
striped flowers named 'Stars and Stripes' (not patented).

Brunnera 'Looking Glass' was discovered as a single,
non-induced sport in a batch of tissue culture propagated
plants of *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' in the fall of 2000 at a
nursery in Zeeland, Mich. The Plant was grown to maturity
and evaluated regularly at the same nursery. Two years later
the Plant was propagated in test tubes using normal shoot tip
tissue culture techniques at the nursery in Zeeland, Mich.
Root initiation from shoots occurs in two to three weeks.
Crops finish off at 15 cm tall and 20 cm wide in 3" containers
in about five months of greenhouse conditions, and maintain
their unique characteristics. The Plant flowers naturally in
the spring following receipt of short days and long nights
from fall growth.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The photographs of the new invention demonstrate the
overall appearance of the plant including the unique traits.
The colors are as accurate as reasonably possible with color

reproductions. Light source and direction may cause the appearance of slight variation in brightness, saturation and hue.

FIG. 1 shows the plant in flower in mid spring.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up of a few mature leaves in mid summer with the unique variegation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following descriptions with generic dictionary color usage are of a three-year-old plant growing in Zeeland, Mich. For more precise color descriptions the 2001 edition of The Royal Horticultural Colour Chart and the corresponding color references are used. The Plant has not been evaluated in all possible growing environments. The phenotype may vary slightly with different conditions such as fertility, light, moisture and temperature, however the genotype remains stable.

Plant habit: Foliage reaches heights of 45 cm and 50 to 70 cm wide. The leaves are cordate to reniform, coarsely pubescent, with long thin petioles basally attached to underground rhizomes. Plant shape is a domed mound.

Leaves: Entire; shape — cordate; apex — broadly acute; base — cordate; blade flat with no normal undulations although some are slightly convex, turning down around the edges in some conditions; finely pubescent on both surfaces; 12 to 15 cm long and 12 to 15 cm in width; base leaf color is a rich green — on the adaxial surface nearest RHS 137 A at the 2 mm wide major veins and the edge 2 to 3 mm of the leaf; abaxial leaf side between RHS 143 A and 142 B. The silver white coating is lighter than RHS 192 D or 190 D.

Petioles: Pubescent, 3 mm wide and up to 30 cm long; RHS 142 B.

Flowers: 120 to 180 individual flowers on paniculate cymes having smaller ovate cauline leaves either sessile or with short petioles, up to 60 cm tall and branches to 30 cm

wide, remain in flower for three weeks, each flower persists up to one week; forming five lobed corolla, 7 mm diameter.

Petals: Adaxial side light blue, between RHS 106 A and RHS 106 B, deeper on younger flowers, with a short white corolla throat, abaxial side, or back of the flower about 108 D.

Peduncles: Pubescent, erect to 60 cm; to 4 mm diameter; green, RHS 138 B.

Flower bud: Globose, 1 to 2 mm diameter; RHS 76 C about four days prior to opening.

Sepals: Five, entire, narrowly acuminate, 1 mm long, less than 0.5 mm across, fused at base; green RHS 142 B on both surfaces.

Flower timing: Identical to *Brunnera macrophylla*, late April to May, in Zeeland, Mich.

Seeds and all the sexual organs: Identical to the species; single gynoecium 3 mm long, about RHS 193 D; androecium, 5; stamens white, about 2 to 3 mm long; anthers about 1 mm long and dark purple, RHS N 187 A; seeds small nutlet, less than 1 mm in diameter, dark brown to near black.

The Plant is hardy to USDA zone 3, tolerates late spring frosts, and persists after fall frosts. It has no serious pests. 'Looking Glass' performs well in shade, or sunny garden locations with some protection from the hottest sun. It grows best with an ample amount of moisture, but can tolerate drier gardens. It is also well suited for growing in containers, and is less prone to leaf scorch than 'Variegata'. 'Looking Glass' is useful as a potted plant, cut flower or in the landscape as a specimen plant or in mass.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct perennial *Brunnera macrophylla* plant named 'Looking Glass' as herein described and illustrated.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2