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

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(54) **IPOMOEA PLANT NAMED ‘FNPALBLK’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ipomoea batatas*  
Varietal Denomination: **Fnpalblk**

(75) Inventor: **Paul A. Talmadge**, Orcutt, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Floranova Service Corp.**, Lompoc, CA (US)

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./258**; Plt./373; Plt./263.1

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./263.1, Plt./373, 258

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP14,912	P3 *	6/2004	Pecota et al. ....	Plt./258
PP15,437	P3 *	12/2004	Pecota et al. ....	Plt./258
PP17,483	P3 *	3/2007	Pecota et al. ....	Plt./258
PP20,813	P2 *	3/2010	Jandrew .....	Plt./263.1
PP20,880	P2 *	3/2010	Jandrew .....	Plt./263.1
PP21,102	P2 *	6/2010	Takahata et al. ....	Plt./258

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*Primary Examiner*—Wendy C. Haas

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea* plant named ‘Fnpalblk’, characterized by its compact, upright and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit and short internodes, dense and bushy growth habit; and dark purple-colored palmate-shaped leaves.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical designation: *Ipomoea batatas*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘FNPALBLK’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea* plant, botanically known as *Ipomoea batatas*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Fnpalblk’.

The new *Ipomoea* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Lompoc, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new compact and freely branching *Ipomoea* cultivars with attractive foliage shape and coloration.

The new *Ipomoea* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the autumn of 2007 of *Ipomoea batatas* ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,437, as the female, or seed, parent with *Ipomoea batatas* ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,912, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Ipomoea* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Lompoc, Calif. in March, 2008.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Ipomoea* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Lompoc, Calif. since April, 2008, has shown that the unique features of this new *Ipomoea* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Ipomoea* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural

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practices such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

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

5 These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Fnpalblk’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Ipomoea*:

1. Compact, upright and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit and short internodes, dense and bushy growth habit.
- 10 3. Dark purple-colored palmate-shaped leaves.

Plants of the new *Ipomoea* can be compared to plants of the female parent, ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* differ from plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’ in the following characteristics:

- 15 1. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* are more freely branching than plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’.
2. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* are bushier and denser than plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’.
- 20 3. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* have dark purple-colored leaves whereas plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Bronze’ have purple bronze to bronze-colored leaves.

Plants of the new *Ipomoea* can be compared to plants of the male parent, ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* differ from plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’ in the following characteristics:

- 25 1. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* are more freely branching than plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’.
2. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* are bushier and denser than plants of ‘Sweet Caroline Purple’.
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Plants of the new *Ipomoea* can be compared to plants of the *Ipomoea batatas* ‘Blackie’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new *Ipomoea* differed from plants of ‘Blackie’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* were more compact than plants of 'Blackie'.
2. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* were more freely branching than plants of 'Blackie'.
3. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* were bushier and denser than plants of 'Blackie'.

Plants of the new *Ipomoea* can also be compared to plants of the *Ipomoea batatas* 'Sweet Caroline Red', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,483. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new *Ipomoea* differed from plants of 'Sweet Caroline Red' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* were more freely branching than plants of 'Sweet Caroline Red'.
2. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* were bushier and denser than plants of 'Sweet Caroline Red'.
3. Plants of the new *Ipomoea* had dark purple-colored leaves whereas plants of 'Sweet Caroline Red' had red-colored leaves.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of typical plants of 'Fnpalblk' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical leaves of 'Fnpalblk'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Lompoc, Calif. in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse during the summer and under conditions which closely approximate commercial *Ipomoea* production. During the production of the plants, average day temperatures were 22° C. and average night temperatures were 17° C. Plants were grown in 15-cm containers and were six weeks old when the photographs and description were taken. In the detailed description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Ipomoea batatas* 'Fnpalblk'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—*Ipomoea batatas* 'Sweet Caroline Bronze', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 15,437.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—*Ipomoea batatas* 'Sweet Caroline Purple', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,912.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By terminal cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About four days at temperatures of 24° C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter.*—About six days at temperatures of 18° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About twelve days at temperatures of 24° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.*—About 18 days at temperatures of 18° C.

*Root description.*—Thick, fleshy; white in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; moderately dense.

*Tuber description.*—Tuber development has not been observed on plants of the new *Ipomoea*.

Plant description:

*Plant habit.*—Compact, upright and mounding plant habit; freely branching habit and short internodes, dense and bushy habit; pinching is typically not required; vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate.

*Plant height.*—About 22 cm.

*Plant diameter.*—About 38 cm.

Lateral branch description:

*Quantity per plant.*—About eleven lateral branches develop per plant.

*Length.*—About 12 cm.

*Diameter.*—About 5 mm.

*Internode length.*—About 1.3 cm.

*Strength.*—Strong.

*Texture.*—Sparsely pubescent.

*Color.*—Close to 187B.

Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Alternate, simple.

*Length.*—About 14.3 cm.

*Width.*—About 14.5 cm.

*Shape.*—Palmate.

*Apex.*—Acute.

*Base.*—Auriculate.

*Margin.*—Entire.

*Texture, upper and lower surfaces.*—Smooth, glabrous.

*Venation pattern.*—Palmate; arcuate.

*Color.*—Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces:

Close to 146B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface:

Close to N186A; venation, close to N186C. Fully

expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to N187A;

venation, close to N186C.

*Petiole.*—Length: About 9 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous.

Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 187A.

Flower description: Flower development has not been observed on plants of the new *Ipomoea*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Ipomoea* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from about 5° C. to about 35° C.

Pathogen/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Ipomoea* have not been observed to be resistant to pests and pathogens common to *Ipomoea*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Ipomoea* plant named 'Fnpalblk' as illustrated and described.

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