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(54) **NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED**
'APPLAUSE LIGHT LAVENDER'

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./318**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./318**

(50) Latin Name: *Impatiens hawkeri*
Varietal Denomination: **Applause Light Lavender**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(73) Assignee: **Oglevee Ltd.**, Connellsville, PA (US)

A new and distinct cultivar of New Guinea Impatiens plant named 'Applause Light Lavender', characterized by its compact and mounded plant habit; freely branching growth habit; dark green leaves; freely flowering habit with flowers positioned above or beyond the foliage; large, light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers; and tolerance to full sun conditions and low and high temperatures.

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

(21) Appl. No.: **10/317,302**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2002**

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Applause Light Lavender.

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 'Applause Light Lavender'.

The new Impatiens is a product of a planned breeding program inventor in Ashtabula, Ohio and Lompoc, Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new freely flowering Impatiens cultivars with compact plant habit and interesting flower and foliage colors.

The new Impatiens originated from a cross-pollination made by the inventor during the winter of 1997 of a proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* seedling selection designated as code number 97-439-1, not patented, as the female, or seed parent, with a proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* seedling selection designated as code number 96-633-3, not patented, as the male, or pollen parent. The cultivar Applause Light Lavender was discovered and selected by the inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in controlled environment in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Lompoc, Calif., since November, 1998, has shown that the unique features of this new Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations. Plants of the new Impatiens differ from the parent selections primarily in flower and leaf color.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Compact and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit, dense and full plants.
3. Dark green leaves.

4. Freely flowering habit with flowers positioned above or beyond the foliage.
5. Large, light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers.
6. Tolerant to full sun conditions and low and high temperatures.

Plants of the new Impatiens can be compared to plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,650. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender, in the following characteristics:

1. Upper and lower leaf surfaces of the new Impatiens were green in color whereas upper and lower leaf surfaces of the cultivar Applause Lavender were green tinged with purple.
2. Plant of the new Impatiens had narrower leaves than plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender.
4. Flower color of plants of the new Impatiens was lighter purple than flower color plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender.
5. Peduncles of plants of the new Impatiens were darker green in color than peduncles of plants of the cultivar Applause Lavender.

Plants of the new Impatiens can also be compared to plants of the cultivar Kicar1, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,370. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new Impatiens differed from plants of the cultivar Kicar1, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Impatiens were shorter, more compact and more mounded (not as upright) in plant habit than plants of the cultivar Kicar1.
2. Upper and lower leaf surfaces of the new Impatiens were green in color whereas upper and lower leaf surfaces of the cultivar Kicar1 were green tinged with purple.
3. Plants of the new Impatiens had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Kicar1.

4. Flower color of plants of the new *Impatiens* was lighter purple than flower color of plants of the cultivar Kicarl.
5. Peduncles of plants of the new *Impatiens* were dark green in color whereas peduncles of plants of the cultivar Kicarl were purple in color.

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. 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 *Impatiens*.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Applause Light Lavender' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Applause Light Lavender 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 aforementioned photographs and following detailed botanical description describe plants grown in Lompoc, Calif., during the winter, under commercial practice in a fiberglass-covered greenhouse. Plants used in the following description were grown in 15-cm containers for about seven to nine weeks after planting rooted cuttings. During the production period, day temperatures were about 21 to 24° C., night temperatures were about 16 to 18° C., and light levels were about 3,000 to 4,000 foot-candles.

In the following 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: *Impatiens hawkeri* cultivar Applause Light Lavender.

Commercial classification: New Guinea *Impatiens* cultivar Applause Light Lavender.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* seedling selection designated as code number 97-439-1, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Impatiens hawkeri* seedling selection designated as code number 96-633-3, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 10 days at 21° C. Winter: About 12 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer and winter.—About 21 days at 21° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching dense.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Mounded, compact and low-growing plant habit; numerous large flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage.

Growth and branching habit.—Freely branching habit; dense and full plant habit; typically about ten lateral branches develop per plant; pinching, that is,

removal of the terminal apices, is usually not required. Vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 12 to 15 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 25 to 30 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 12 to 15 cm. Diameter: About 5 to 6 mm. Internode length: About 2.5 to 3.5 cm. Color: 146B; towards the leaf nodes, 185B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate or whorled; simple. Length: About 9 to 10 cm. Width: About 2.5 cm. Shape: Lanceolate to narrowly ovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Acute. Margin: Serrulate with ciliation. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 146A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 146B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B. Venation, upper surface: 147C. Venation, lower surface: 146A. Petiole length: About 1 to 1.2 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole color: 147C, tinged with 185D.

Flower description:

Flower type and flowering habit.—Single, large, rounded, flat and light purple-colored flowers with white-colored centers. Freely flowering habit, usually about one flower per leaf axil. Flowers positioned above and beyond the foliage and typically face upward or outward. Flowers last about two weeks on the plant depending on environmental conditions. Petals self-cleaning; gynoecium persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering from spring until fall. Flowering indeterminate and continuous.

Flower diameter.—About 7 cm.

Flower buds.—Rate of opening: From flower bud to fully open flower, typically about five to seven days depending on temperature. Length: About 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Ellipsoidal. Color (just before opening): 76B.

Petals.—Quantity: Single, five per flower, imbricate. Length: Banner and lateral petals: About 3 cm. Basal petals: About 4 cm. Width: Banner and lateral petals: About 4 cm. Basal petals: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Roughly cordate. Apex: Emarginate. Base: Rounded. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth; satiny. Color: When opening, upper surface: 82B. When opening, lower surface: 76B. Fully opened, upper surface: 87C; towards the base, 155A; color fading to 84B with development. Fully opened, lower surface: 84B.

Spur.—Length: About 5 cm. Color: 148D, tinged with 63C.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4 cm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Angle: About 45° from vertical. Color: 146D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: Five fused at anthers, filaments free, hooded. Anther length: About 5 mm. Anther shape: Obovate. Anther color: 155A. Amount of pollen: Abundant. Pollen color: 155C. Gynoecium: Pistil number; One, five-segmented. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Stigma color: Close to 158A. Style color: Light yellowish green. Ovary color: Close to 146A.

Fruit/seed development.—Fruit and seed development has not been observed.

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

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Light & temperature tolerance: In outdoor nursery trials in Connellsville, Pa., plants of the new Impatiens have been observed to be tolerant to full sun conditions and high temperatures (32 to 38° C.) during the summer. In outdoor nursery trials in Lompoc, Calif., plants of the new Impatiens have been observed to be tolerant to low night temperatures from about 5 to 10° C.

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It is claimed:

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

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