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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Van Den Top

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(54) **HOSTA PLANT NAMED ‘LITTLE TREASURE’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Hosta* hybrid (Tratt.)**
Varietal Denomination: **Little Treasure**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 102 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/287,538**

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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./353**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./353**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP12,663 P2 * 5/2002 Heemskerk Plt./353
PP19,539 P3 * 12/2008 van den Top Plt./353

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve Retrieval Soft-
ware 2009/05 Citation for ‘Little Treasure’.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* plant named ‘Little
Treasure’, characterized by its broadly spreading foliage with
upright flower scapes, widely-margined green and light yel-
low variegated foliage, violet-colored flowers that are posi-
tioned above the foliage on strong scapes, and good garden
performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of genus an species of plant claimed: *Hosta*
hybrid (Tratt.).
Variety denomination: ‘Little Treasure’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Hosta* plant botanically known as *Hosta* hybrid and here-
inafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Little Treasure’.

The new *Hosta* cultivar is a naturally-occurring sport of
‘Little Jay’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11/704,810, characterized by
lance-shaped, dwarf-sized, leaves with blue green margins,
light yellow to creamy leaf centers, vertical flower scapes
with light purple flowers, suitable for landscape, potted cul-
ture, or cut flower arrangements. The new cultivar was dis-
covered as a whole plant and selected during August 2005 in
a controlled environment at Barneveld, The Netherlands.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Hosta* by division and
tissue culture in a controlled environment in Barneveld, The
Netherlands since 2005, has shown that the unique features of
this new *Hosta* are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been
repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish ‘Little
Treasure’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* plant:

1. Broadly spreading foliage with upright flower scapes;
2. Widely-margined green and light yellow variegated foli-
age;
3. Violet-colored flowers that are positioned above the
foliage on strong scapes; and
4. Good garden performance.

Of the many commercially available *Hosta* cultivars, the
most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is the parent
cultivar ‘Little Jay’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,539. However, in

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side by side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ
from its parent, in leaf color and width of the leaf margin.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is
reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of
this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new
cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the
color values cited in the detailed description, which accu-
rately describes the colors of ‘Little Treasure’. The plants
were grown outdoors in 3-liter containers for approximately
two years in Barneveld, The Netherlands.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view
of typical plants of ‘Little Treasure’ grown in an outdoor
nursery.

The photograph at the top of the second sheet is a close-up
view of a typical leaf of ‘Little Treasure’.

The photograph at the bottom of the second sheet is a
close-up view of a typical inflorescence of ‘Little Treasure’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural
Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where gen-
eral color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color
values were determined in June 2008 under natural light
conditions in Barneveld, The Netherlands when day tempera-
tures ranged from 12° C. to 31° C. (53° F. to 88° F.) and night
temperatures ranged from 4° C. to 16° C. (39° F. to 61° F.).

Plants used in the following description were grown in Barneveld, The Netherlands, in an outdoor nursery in 3-liter containers and under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions. The plants were grown for approximately two years when the description was taken. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Hosta* hybrid cultivar Little Treasure.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring sport of *Hosta* hybrid 'Little Jay', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,539.

Propagation:

Type.—*In vitro* propagation utilizing typical methods for *Hosta* is preferred, garden division is also possible.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 20 days at a temperature of approximately 15° C.

Time to produce a rooted plant.—Approximately 50 days at a temperature of approximately 15° C.

Root description.—Medium thickness, fibrous; creamy white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately branching, moderate density.

Plant description:

Growth habit and general appearance.—Herbaceous flowering perennial plant. Broadly spreading foliage with upright flower scapes. Flowering stems and leaves basal rosettes; moderately vigorous growth habit. Violet-colored flowers are positioned above the foliage on strong scapes.

Crop time.—Approximately 20 weeks from tissue culture plantlets to finish in an 11 cm container.

Size.—Plant height (soil level to top of foliar plane): Approximately 18.1 cm. Plant height (soil level to top of inflorescences): Approximately 44.8 cm. Plant width (spread): Approximately 44.4 cm.

Foliage description:

General description.—Leaves basal, simple with approximately 6 per basal rosette, generally symmetrical and long-persisting.

Leaves.—Shape: Ovate to slightly carinate. Appearance: Dull. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Obtuse to attenuate. Margin: Entire. Length: Approximately 10.3 cm. Width: Approximately 6.3 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; furrowed on venation. Venation pattern: Camptodrome. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 139A with a central band of 4C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 137A to 137B with a central band of 4C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Between 137A to 139A with lighter coloration near the base, stripes of 143A to 143B near the edge of and occasionally within the central band of 4C to 5D. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 137B covered with a glaucous layer of 189A and with a central band of 4C to 4D. Color of upper and lower surfaces of venation: Indistinguishable from leaf color.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 13.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper surface: 157D with green stripes of 138A to 138B. Color of lower surface: 155A to 157D.

Flowering description:

Natural flowering season.—Continuously flowering from June into August in Barneveld, The Netherlands.

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 5 days, not persistent.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Terminal racemes with flowers facing outward or slightly downward. Freely flowering habit with about 22 flowers developing per inflorescence, and approximately 190 individual flowers and buds per plant. Fragrance: None detected. Inflorescence height: Approximately 14.7 cm. Inflorescence diameter: Approximately 8.6 cm.

Peduncles (scapes).—Strength: Strong. Length: Approximately 41.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Angle: Erect to approximately a 5° angle from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 150D with an occasional longitudinal stripe of 143A.

Flower description:

Type.—Campanulate, single.

Flower buds.—Rate of opening: Per flowering stem, approximately 5% of the flowers open together with all flowers per inflorescence opening within approximately 4 weeks. Shape: Oblanceolate. Length: Approximately 2.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 8.0 mm. Color: 76A with spots of 77B, the base is a lighter 69D.

Perianth.—Depth: Approximately 4.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.5 cm.

Tepals.—Quantity: 6, arranged in a single whorl, fused at base with upper 37% free. Shape: Oblanceolate. Appearance: Dull. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Length: Approximately 3.7 cm. Width: Approximately 9.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color of upper (inner) surface when first open: 76A. Color of lower (outer) surface when first open: 76B. Color of upper (inner) surface when fully open: 76A with stripes of 86D. Color of lower (outer) surface when fully open: 76B darkening to 83A with senescence.

Bracts.—Quantity: One per flower at the base of the pedicel. Length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Shape: Ovate, concave. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 155A, transparent.

Pedicels.—Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 1.0 mm. Angle: Approximately 60° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 76B to 76C becoming a darker 76A near the base of the flower.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity per flower: Typically six; anthers dorsifixed. Filament length: Approximately 4.5 cm, curled. Filament color: N155A. Anther shape: Narrowly oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 202A. Pollen amount: Sparse. Pollen color: 12B. Gynoecium: Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: Approximately 4.8 cm. Stigma shape: Crested. Stigma color: 155C. Style length: Approximately 4.7 cm. Style color: N155A. Ovary color: 155A.

Seed and fruit production: Seed and fruit development have not been observed.

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

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Garden performance: Plants of the new *Hosta* have been observed to have good garden performance and tolerate rain, wind and high temperatures of about 35° C. (95° F.). Plants of the new *Hosta* have been observed to be hardy to a least USDA Zone 5.

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What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* plant named 'Little Treasure', substantially as herein shown and described.

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