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Churchus

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[54] **DOUBLE IMPATIENS PLANT NAMED
'GOLDEN SUNRISE'**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[21] Appl. No.: **08/963,516**

A new and distinct cultivar of Double Impatiens plant named 'Golden Sunrise', characterized by its unique and stable light yellow and green variegated foliage; large orange flowers; consistently double and symmetrical flower form; numerous flowers per plant; freely branching, dense and bushy plant habit; low-growing, outwardly spreading to cascading, and mounted plant habit; suitable for hanging baskets and patio containers; and excellent landscape performance.

[22] Filed: **Nov. 3, 1997**

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./317**

[58] **Field of Search** Plt./87.6, 319, Plt./317

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1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Double Impatiens plant, botanically known as *Impatiens walleriana*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name Golden Sunrise.

Double Impatiens. Flower and foliage colors in the photographs may appear different from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

The new cultivar is a spontaneous branch mutation of the *Impatiens walleriana* cultivar Golden Girl (U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 08/963,515, filed concurrently). The new cultivar was discovered and selected by the inventor in a controlled environment in Devon Meadows, Victoria, Australia in 1992, as a mutation of the dark pink-flowered cultivar Golden Girl. Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Devon Meadows, Victoria, Australia, has shown that the unique features of this new Double Impatiens are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements, values, and comparisons describe plants grown under outdoor production conditions in 16.5-cm containers in Keller, Tex., in full and partial shade during the summer.

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

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.

1. Unique and stable light yellow and green variegated foliage.

15 Botanical classification: *Impatiens walleriana* cultivar Golden Sunrise.

2. Large orange flowers.

Parentage: Spontaneous branch mutation of *Impatiens walleriana* cultivar Golden Girl.

3. Consistently double and symmetrical flower form.

Propagation:

4. Numerous flowers per plant.

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

5. Freely branching, dense and bushy plant habit.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 7 days at a temperature of 15° C. Winter: About 14 days at a temperature of 10° C.

6. Low-growing, outwardly spreading to cascading, and mounded plant habit, suitable for hanging baskets and patio containers.

Rooting habit.—Numerous, strong, fine, and freely-branching.

7. Excellent landscape performance.

Plant description:

The new Double Impatiens has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature and light level, without, however, any variance in genotype.

Form.—Low-growing, outwardly spreading to cascading, and mounded plant habit. Freely branching, dense and bushy growth. Large flowers that face upright or outward.

Usage.—Suitable for 10 to 25-cm containers; recommended for hanging baskets and patio containers; excellent garden performance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance and flower color of the new Double Impatiens, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

Vigor.—Moderate and moderate growth rate.

Plant height.—About 12 cm.

Plant spread.—About 45 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching with numerous lateral branches, branches very strong and flexible.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a top perspective view of a typical plant of the new Double Impatiens.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 18 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Internode length: About 1.9 cm. Color: Translucent, light green, close to 147C, with red-purple, 59A, spots that are most prevalent at nodes.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, alternate, and flat in aspect. Length: About 4.5 cm. Width: About 3 cm. Shape:

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical leaves and flowers of the new

Ovate with acuminate apex, cuneate base and crenate margin. Texture: Smooth. Color: Light yellow and green variegated leaves; green at center with light yellow at margins. Actual shape and size of yellow and green areas is variable. Young leaves, upper surface: Yellow areas: 11A. Green areas: Close to 146A and light green, 144A. Young leaves, lower surface: Yellow Areas: 11A/11B. Green areas: Closest to 146B with red (dulled 178A) spots/blotches. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Yellow areas: 10A/10B/10C/11A/11B/11C. Green areas; Close to 147B and lighter green, 146C, areas. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Yellow areas: 10A/10B/10C/11B/11C/11D. Green areas: Close to 147B with red (dulled 178A) spots/blotches. Venation, upper surface: Similar to leaf surface color, iridescent. Venation, lower surface: 146B. Petiole: Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Color: Very light green to white.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Large orange flowers. Consistently double and symmetrical flowers. Freely and continuously flowering. Flower buds open similar to a rose in fullness. Flowers arise from leaf axils, terminal bud opening first. Usually three or four flowers per lateral branch. Flowers face upright or outward. Flowers self-cleaning.

Time to flower.—Flowering generally commences four to six weeks after planting.

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

Flower diameter.—About 4 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 1.75 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 39A/39B.

Petals/petaloids.—Quantity: Numerous, typically more than 15. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Shape: Obovate with rounded or cordate apex, cuneate base and entire margin. Texture: Satiny, smooth. Color: When opening, upper surface: Iridescent, 40A, with purple, close to 57A, spot at base. When opening, lower surface: Iridescent, 41B. Mature, upper surface: Iridescent, 40A/40B, with purple, close to 57A, spot at base. Mature, lower surface: Iridescent, 41D. Fading to: 40C.

Spur.—Length: About 2.5 cm. Shape: Narrow and curved. Color: Initially light green becoming yellow-green, close to 144A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 2 cm. Angle: Upright to outwardly arching. Strength: Moderate, flexible. Color: Glossy, translucent, light green.

Reproductive organs.—None observed. Under optimal flowering conditions, reproductive organs are not observed as these structures develop into sterile petaloids. Without the development of functional reproductive organs, pollination and subsequent seed production are not observed.

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

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Double Impatiens plant named 'Golden Sunrise', as illustrated and described.

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