



US00PP10951P

United States Patent [19]
Mak

[11] **Patent Number:** **Plant 10,951**
[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 8, 1999**

[54] **ORIENTAL HYBRID LILY PLANT NAMED
'EUROBLANCA'**

Primary Examiner—Howard J. Locker
[57] **ABSTRACT**

[76] Inventor: **Johan A. Mak**, 5595 Halls Ferry Rd.,
Independence, Oreg. 97351

A new variety of hybrid lily plant bearing large upright-facing flowers of excellent form and long persistence, both on the plant and as cut-flowers. The flowers of the new plant are particularly characterized by their pure white color, their lightly ruffled margins, their large size and substance, their upright to semi-upright orientation, and the sharply ascending pedicels of the upper flowers. The plant is particularly characterized by its dark green leaves and an unusually broad leaf under the lowest flower of the stem. This combination is completely new in the Oriental hybrid divisions of lilies suited to forcing and to mass commercial cultivation. The bulbs may be precooled and forced for cut-flower production.

[21] Appl. No.: **08/929,006**

[22] Filed: **Sep. 4, 1997**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A01H 5/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./87.4**

[58] **Field of Search** **Plt./87.4**

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 6,502 1/1989 McRae **Plt./87.4**

2 Drawing Sheets

1

2

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

My new variety of lily plant originated as a seedling which first flowered in't Zand, Netherlands, in 1988. The breeding efforts had as their objective the production of Oriental hybrid lilies with upright or semi-upright white flowers without conspicuous spotting, suited to forcing into flower out of season, heretofore unknown in the lily breeding art.

The following is a detailed description of my new variety of Oriental hybrid lily, with nomenclature according to the *International Lily Register* (Royal Horticultural Society of London, Second Edition, 1969), and with color designations according to the Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, published by the Society in 1966.

I achieved the desired objective by intercrossing selected upright and semi-upright white Oriental seedlings selected for their suitability to forcing for year-round use as cut-flowers and carrying the recessive gene for pure white flowers.

The Plant

- Origin: Seedling.
- Seed parent: Selected unnamed white Oriental hybrid seedling.
- Pollen parent: Selected unnamed white Oriental hybrid seedling.
- Commercial classification: Hybrid *Lilium* clone.
- Horticultural classification: Division VII-B, bowl-shaped Oriental hybrid lily, according to the Horticultural Classification of Lilies, Royal Horticultural Society of London.
- Form: Single stem, erect and stately.
- Height: 80 to 120 cm from bulbs 14 to 18 cm in circumference, provided light levels are adequate; low light levels may cause "stretching."
- Growth: Vigorous and upright.
- Foliage quantity: Abundant.
- Size of leaf: Unusually broad, 7 to 9 cm wide×18 to 24 cm long.
- Shape of leaf: Lanceolate (pointed).
- Texture: Leathery and glossy.
- Color: Medium dark green, lighter on lower side.
- Bulb size: Any size, ranging to 25 cm circumference commercially.
- Bulb color: White, with flushes of pink or yellow after exposure to light.

The flowers of my new lily are characterized by an upright orientation, large size and broad-tepalled "bowl-shaped" form, unusually thick substance, lightly ruffled tepal margins, and a distinctive pure white, unspotted coloration, unique among Oriental hybrid lilies. The pedicels of the upper flowers are ascending. The clone possesses unusually strong, stout stems. In addition, the clone possesses to a high degree desirable characteristics of hybrid vigor. The clone is a good grower and propagator, as observed at't Zand, Netherlands, and at Salem, Oreg.

My new variety of lily plant has been asexually reproduced by me and under my direction at't Zand, Netherlands, and at Salem, Oreg. Successive generations produced by natural propagation from bulblets, by bulb scale propagation, and by tissue culturing from bulb scale explants have demonstrated that the novel and distinctive characteristics of my new variety are fixed and hold true under asexual propagation from generation to generation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

My new cultivar of lily plant is illustrated in the accompanying photographic drawings.

The Bud

FIG. 1 shows the bloom in varying states of maturity and illustrates the novel and distinct flower form, tepal arrangement, the ascending pedicels, and in particular the lightly ruffled tepal margins, and upright to semi-upright orientation of the pure white, unspotted flowers.

- Form: Obtuse, ovoid, and long.
- Size: 13 to 16 cm long and 10 to 14 cm in circumference just prior to opening.
- Opening: Bud opens slowly, in response to morning light; this takes about one hour.
- Color: Pure white.

FIG. 2 shows the unusually broad leaf under the lowest flower on the stem.

Plant 10,951

3

Peduncle: Averages 4 to 6 cm, but it may elongate if light levels are too low or if bulbs have been improperly stored prior to forcing. Color is medium green with very light plum overlay.

The Flower

Blooming habit: Annually in midseason; flowers once and profusely.

Size: Flowers are large-sized, averaging 28 to 33 cm in diameter, reflexing at the tips on the second day to 25 to 31 cm in diameter. The tepals are broad: outer tepals are 4 to 6 cm wide, and the inner tepals are 6.5 to 8 cm wide.

Borne: In a single racemic inflorescence producing 3 to 6 flowers from a bulb 14 to 16 cm in circumference.

Shape: Form a broad bowl shape by the second day after opening.

Tepalage: Typical of genus *Lilium*, with 6 imbricated tepals.

Tepal color: Pure white. The nectary furrows are soft green close to R.H.S. CC 142 A.

Tepal spotting: None.

Tepal longevity: Tepals stay on stems about three weeks.

Pedicel length: Average 8 to 12 cm long.

Pedicel color: Medium green with very light plum overlay.

Pedicel form: Sturdy and ascending, up to 60 degrees from the horizontal in the upper flowers.

Color changes: None.

Appearance: Flower is shiny.

Disease resistance: The flower and plant are resistant to disease; in particular to *Fusarium* bulb rot, *Botrytis* blight, and show tolerance against viruses.

Fragrance: Light sweet fragrance.

Lasting quality: The flower is long lasting, both on the plant and as a cut-flower.

The Reproductive Organs

Stamens: Arrangement typical of genus *Lilium*. Six stamens with soft green filaments 8.5 to 11 cm long.

4

Pollen and anthers (dehisced): R.H.S. C.C. Greyed orange 169 A.

Pistil: One in number, 9 to 11 cm long.

Stigma: Purple R.H.S. C.C. 79 C-B.

Characteristics of ovary: Characteristic of genus *Lilium*.

The Fruit

Fertility: The fruit bears fertile seed.

Shape: Ovoid.

Color at maturity: Soft-brown, sometimes overlaid with soft plum.

My new variety of Oriental hybrid lily most nearly resembles 'Casa Blanca,' but it has upfacing flowers with lightly ruffled tepals. Its pedicels are more sharply ascending, and its inflorescence bears more flowers. The stem of my Oriental variety is also taller and its leaves are broader and greener.

I claim:

1. A new and distinctive cultivar of Oriental hybrid lily plant substantially as herein shown and described, characterized by its versatility both as a garden plant and as a cut-flower producer from pre-cooled bulbs forced under glass out of season; the flowers of the new plant being particularly characterized by their pure white color, the lightly ruffled margins, their large size and good substance, their upright to semi-upright orientation, and the sharply ascending pedicels of the upper flowers; the plant being particularly characterized by dark green leaves and an unusually broad leaf (7-9 centimeters in width) under the lowest flower of the stem.

* * * * *



Fig. 1



Fig. 2