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**Korlipara**

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(54) **ECHINACEA PURPUREA** PLANT NAMED  
**'LITTLE GIANT'**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Echinacea purpurea*  
Varietal Denomination: **Little Giant**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **Plt./263**  
See application file for complete search history.

(75) Inventor: **Harini Korlipara**, Canby, OR (US)

*Primary Examiner*—Anne Marie Grunberg

*Assistant Examiner*—June Hwu

(73) Assignee: **Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.**, Canby,  
OR (US)

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Klarquist Sparkman, LLP

(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 116 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea purpurea* plant  
named 'Little Giant' characterized by its unique flowers with  
numerous red purple rays that radiate out, orange cone,  
lovely fragrance, and an upright dwarf habit.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/872,349**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 18, 2004**

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical classification: *Echinacea purpurea*.  
Variety designation: 'Little Giant'.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Echinacea purpurea* and given the cultivar name 'Little  
Giant'. *Echinacea* is in the family Asteraceae. This new  
cultivar originated as a whole plant mutation in a mass  
planting of *Echinacea purpurea* 'Ruby Giant' (an unpatented  
plant) in the nursery trial fields in Canby, Ore.

This new *Echinacea purpurea* cultivar is distinguished  
by:

1. Large red purple flowers with a double row of ray  
flowers.
2. Dwarf habit.
3. Lovely fragrance.
4. Ray flowers which spread out parallel to ground,  
slightly ruffled.
5. Strong upright stems.
6. Good vigor.

This new cultivar has been reproduced only by asexual  
propagation (division and tissue culture). Each of the progeny  
exhibits identical characteristics to the original plant. Asexual  
propagation by division and tissue culture using standard  
micropropagation techniques with terminal and lateral shoots,  
as done in Canby, Ore., shows that the foregoing characteristics  
and distinctions come true to form and are established and  
transmitted through succeeding propagations. The present  
invention has not been evaluated under all possible environmental  
conditions. The phenotype may vary with changes in the  
environment without a change in the genotype of the plant.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

The photograph shows *Echinacea purpurea* 'Little Giant'  
growing in the ground in field trials in the summer in Canby,  
Oreg.

**DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION**

The following is a detailed description of the new *Echinacea*  
*purpurea* cultivar based on observations of a one-year-old  
specimen growing in the trial fields in Canby, Ore. The

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color descriptions are all based on The Royal Horticultural  
Society Colour Chart.

Botanical classification: *Echinacea purpurea*.  
Variety denomination: 'Little Giant'.

Plant:

- Type*.—Herbaceous perennial.
- Hardiness*.—USDA Zones 4 to 9.
- Size*.—30 cm wide and 40 cm. tall to top of flowers.
- Form*.—Basal clump.

Leaf:

- Type*.—Simple.
- Shape*.—Lanceolate.
- Arrangement*.—Alternate.
- Blade length*.—10 to 19 cm.
- Width*.—3 to 6 cm. at the widest part.
- Margins*.—Slightly undulate and broadly crenate.
- Apex*.—Acuminate.
- Base*.—Attenuate, continuing down petiole.
- Texture*.—Rough.
- Vestiture*.—Strigose.
- Venation*.—Pinnate.

*Color*.—Topside — Deep Green, Between Green 139A  
and Yellow Green 147A. Bottom — Yellow Green  
147B.

*Petiole length*.—8 to 11 cm if basal leaf, 0.5 to 1 cm if  
cauline leaf.

*Petiole vestiture*.—Strigose.

*Petiole color*.—Greyed Purple 187B except Yellow  
Green 146D on back.

Inflorescence:

- Type*.—Long stalked terminal heads.
- Number of heads per plant*.—12 in first flush.
- Immature inflorescence*.—While still developing the  
ray petals are slightly upright and Red Purple 64A.  
The closed disc is Greyed Purple 187A, occasionally  
the very center may be Yellow Green 144A. Disc  
size ranges from 4 cm to 4.8 cm wide.
- Peduncle*.—Strong and fibrous, makes a good cut  
flower. Height: 40 cm. Diameter: 1 cm. near flower  
head. Vestiture: Strigose. Color: Red Purple 187A.

## Flower:

*Type*.—Perfect, zygomorphic in composite head.

*Size*.—12.5 cm. wide and 2 to 5 cm deep as disc enlarges.

*Ray petals*.—In 2 or 3 series, about 80, irregular in width and length, sometimes twisted, giving the flower a ruffled look. Occasionally flatten tubes. Shape: Oblong to narrowly oblong with the tip 2 to 3 toothed. Length: Varies on one head from 3.5 to 4.7 cm long. Width: 0.7 cm on long petals and 0.9 to 1 cm on shorter petals. Texture — Satiny, soft. Vestiture — Glabrous except for bottom side where sparsely strigose.

*Disc*.—Average number of disc florets between 450 and 500. Shape — Convex becoming conic. Size — 4.8 to 5 cm wide and becoming 3.5 cm deep with maturity. Flower — 1.2 cm long, Yellow Green 146D, 5 lobed, each flower with one persistent, very stiff bract, 1.6 cm long, which gives the black to orange disc color. Pistil — 1 per floret, in ray and disc florets, 0.5 cm long, extruding, 2-branched stigma, stigma and style are Greyed Purple 187A, ovary is yellow green tinged with Greyed Purple 187A. Stamen — 5 in number, in ray and disc florets, 3 mm long, Greyed Purple 187A, anthers oval, 0.1 mm long, Orange 25C. Pollen color — No pollen, male sterile.

*Color*.—Ray, topside — Red Purple 64A. Ray, bottom side — Red Purple 59C. Disc — Greyed Purple 187A before opening and bracts Orange 25B with dark red tips, Red 46A to Greyed Purple 187A.

*Bracts (at the base of each head)*.—Involucral bracts in six to seven leafy series, lobes lanceolate in shape, reflexed, strigose, area 3.5 to 5 cm wide.

*Bract size*.—0.3 cm wide and 0.6 to 0.8 cm long.

*Bract color*.—Yellow Green 147A.

*Bloom period*.—July through September in Canby, Oreg.

*Fragrance*.—Lovely.

*Lastingness*.—Each flower head lasts two to three weeks on the plant.

Fruit and seed: None. Plant sterile.

Diseases and pests: *Echinacea* are prone to leaf miners, powdery mildew, bacterial spots, and gray mold. Vine weevils may attack roots.

COMPARISONS TO SIMILAR *ECHINACEA*

Compared to *Echinacea purpurea* 'Ruby Giant', an unpatented plant and the parent, the new cultivar is much shorter with longer thinner leaves. The flowers of the new cultivar are a deeper red purple in color.

Compared to *Echinacea purpurea* 'Kim's Knee-Hi' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,242), the new cultivar is shorter with wider flower heads that stiffly radiate rather than rigidly reflex and are colored deep red purple rather than rosy pink to purple pink. The new cultivar also has more ray flowers.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea purpurea* plant named 'Little Giant', as illustrated and described.

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