

[54] AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT NAMED NANCYFI

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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt. 69

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 6,998 8/1989 Holtkamp ..... Plt. 69

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct cultivar of African violet named Nancyfi is provided. This cultivar exhibits a compact rosette growth habit, light green pubescent foliage, and forms in abundance on upright peduncles attractive single zygomorphic rotate flowers of red-purple coloration having a strong petal undulation. The plant advantageously has a very floriferous habit with the flowering continuing for many weeks following its onset.

1 Drawing Sheet

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of African violet plant, botanically known as *Saintpaulia ionantha*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name Nancyfi.

The new cultivar is the product of a planned breeding program and was referred to during the breeding and selection process by the designation 087-191-016. The basic objective of the breeding program was to create a new highly floriferous and compact African violet cultivar having an abundance of single red-purple flowers with a strong undulation of the petal margin which stand erect above light green foliage.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made in this breeding program at Hannover, West Germany. The female and male parents are unknown at this time. The discovery and selection of the new cultivar occurred during 1987.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by leaf cuttings, as performed by me at Hannover, West Germany and at Fallbrook, Calif., U.S.A. has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual propagation.

Nancyfi has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, the phenotype may vary significantly with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, day length, etc.

The observations, measurements, and values expressed herein describe the new cultivar when grown under greenhouse conditions at Hannover, West Germany. These conditions are believed to closely approximate those commonly used in commercial practice.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are believed to be the basic characteristics of Nancyfi which in combination distinguish it as being a new and distinct African violet cultivar:

- (a) forms attractive red-purple single zygomorphic rotate flowers having a strong undulation of the petals, po0
- (b) forms light green pubescent foliage compris-

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ing oval leaves with a crenate margin having a broad apex and a cordate base,

(c) exhibits a compact rosette growth habit with the flowers being held erect above the foliage on upright peduncles, and

(d) exhibits a very floriferous habit with the flowers continuing to open for many weeks after the onset of flowering.

The flowers commonly exhibit a diameter of approximately 3.5 cm. and sometimes possess petaloid anthers. When started as 6 to 8 leaf-stage plantlets, Nancyfi commonly finishes in 10 to 12 weeks when grown in 9 to 10 cm. pots depending upon the growing conditions encountered.

Since the new cultivar is considered to be unique, it is not meaningful to compare its characteristics to those of any previously known African violet variety.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same, in color illustrations of this character, typical specimens of the plant and flowers of the new cultivar. The plants of the new variety were grown in a greenhouse at Hannover, West Germany.

FIG. 1 illustrates a typical specimen of the overall plant of the new cultivar wherein the compact rosette growth habit, foliage and blossoms are shown, and

FIG. 2 illustrates from above at the right three typical flowers of the new cultivar, and at the left a portion of a page from the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, for comparative purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The chart used in the identification of the colors described hereinafter is that of The Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S. Colour Chart) except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are expressed. The color values were taken under natural daylight conditions at 2 p.m. at Hannover, West Germany.

Botanical classification: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Ramat.,  
 cv. Nancyfi.  
 Parentage: Unknown.  
 Propagation: The new cultivar holds its distinguishing  
 characteristics through successive propagations by 5  
 leaf cuttings.  
 Plant: Commonly from approximately 8 to 9 cm. tall  
 when grown in pots, and approximately 20 to 25 cm.  
 in diameter when fully grown. The growth rate of  
 plant is vigorous and the general shape of the fully 10  
 grown plant is compact and rosette.

Leaves:

*Quantity*.—Abundant.  
*Shape*.—Oval shaped with a crenate margin, hav-  
 ing a broad apex and a cordate base. 15  
*Size*.—Approximately 7 cm. in length on average.  
 × approximately 6.0 cm. in width on average.  
*Texture*.—Pubescent and glossy.  
*Ribs and veins*.—Pinnate.  
*Color — upper surface*.—Green Group 137A. 20  
*Color — under surface*.—Green Group 138D.  
*Petioles*.—Greyed-Orange Group 167B.

Flowers:

*Buds*.—Size: Approximately 0.5 cm. in diameter on  
 average. Shape: Round. Rate of opening: Nor- 25  
 mal.  
*Sepals*.—Shape: 5 in number, lanceolate. Color:  
 Greyed-Purple Group 184A.  
*Phyllaries*.—Shape: 2 in number, lanceolate. Color: 30  
 Green.  
*Calyx*.—Size: Approximately 0.5 cm. in diameter  
 on average. Shape: Funnel-shaped. Aspect: Pu-  
 bescent.  
*Peduncle*.—Length: Approximately 7.5 to 8.5 cm. 35  
 on average. Character: Erect, rigid. Color:  
 Greyed-Purple Group 184A.

Individual flowers:

*Number of petals*.—5 in number, sometimes include  
 petaloid anthers. 40  
*Size*.—A diameter of approximately 3.5 cm. and a  
 depth of approximately 0.5 cm. commonly are  
 exhibited.  
*Shape*.—Single zygomorphic rotate.

*Color — upper surface*.—Red-Purple Group 67B.  
*Color — under surface*.—Red-Purple Group 74C.  
 The flower coloration can vary somewhat due to  
 the amount of light, fertilizer, temperature and  
 other growing conditions.

*Bearing*.—Cymose clusters on upright peduncles.  
*Flowering habit*.—Flowers profusely and intermit-  
 tently throughout the year with blooms com-  
 monly lasting approximately 3 to 4 weeks after  
 which petals dry up but do not drop; finishes in  
 approximately 10 to 12 weeks when a 6 to 8  
 leaf-stage plantlet is grown in a 9 to 10 cm. pot.

Reproductive organs:

*Stamens*.—Borne singly on one side of the ovary; 2  
 anthers are basifixed. Anthers: 2 in number;  
 monodelphous arrangement; approximately 0.2  
 cm.; yellow. Filaments: approximately 0.3 cm.;  
 bicolored, yellow and purple. Pollen color: Yel-  
 low.  
*Pistels*.—Number: 1 in number. Styles: Approxi-  
 mately 0.7 cm. in length, purple. Stigma: Sticky,  
 white. Ovaries: Hypogynous and tomentose.

Disease resistance: No African violet diseases have been  
 observed to date.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of African violet plant  
 named Nancyfi characterized by the following combi-  
 nation of characteristics:

- (a) forms attractive red-purple single zygomorphic ro-  
 tate flowers having a strong undulation of the petals,
- (b) forms light green pubescent foliage comprising oval  
 leaves with a crenate margin having a broad apex and  
 a cordate base,
- (c) exhibits a compact rosette growth habit with the  
 flowers being held erect above the foliage on upright  
 peduncles, and
- (d) exhibits a very floriferous habit with the flowers  
 continuing to open for many weeks after the onset of  
 flowering;

substantially as herein shown and described.

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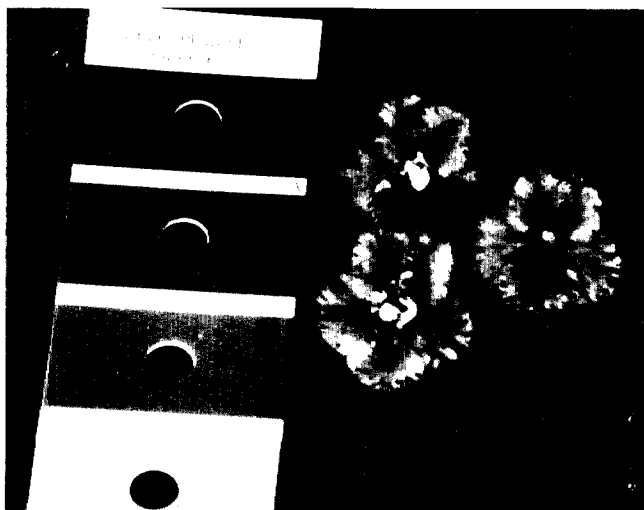
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*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*