United States Plant Patent
Murakami

Patent No.: US PP16,811 P2
Date of Patent: Jul. 11, 2006

CALIBRACHOA PLANT NAMED ‘SUNBELKUROPI’

Latin Name: Calibrachoa sp.
Varietal Denomination: Sunbelkuropi

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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 20 days.

Appl. No.: 11/091,804
Filed: Mar. 28, 2005

Int. Cl. A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant, botanically known as Calibrachoa sp., and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Sunbelkuropi’.

The new Calibrachoa is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Higashimino, Shiga, Japan. The objective of the program is to create new Calibrachoa cultivars with uniform plant habit and attractive flower colors.

The new Calibrachoa originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in 1995 of proprietary seedling selection of Calibrachoa identified as code number WP49, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary seedling selection of Calibrachoa identified as code number EL, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Calibrachoa was discovered and selected by the Inventor in a controlled environment in Higashimino, Shiga, Japan.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Higashimino, Shiga, Japan since October, 1999, has shown that the unique features of this new Calibrachoa are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar Sunbelkuropi have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and daylength without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Sunbelkuropi’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Sunbelkuropi’ as a new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa:

1. Decumbent and low mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Red purple-colored flowers with darker red purple-colored flower throats.
6. Good weather tolerance; tolerant to rain and low and high temperatures.

Plants of the new Calibrachoa differ from plants of the female parent selection primarily in petal coloration as plants of the female parent selection have light purple violet-colored petals. Compared to plants of the male parent selection, plants of the new Calibrachoa are more decumbent, shorter, more freely branching, more freely flowering and differ in petal coloration as plants of the male parent selection have red-colored flowers.

Plants of the new Calibrachoa can be compared to plants of the cultivar Sunbelkuropi, disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 10,287. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Higashimino, Shiga, Japan, plants of the new Calibrachoa were more compact and had shorter internodes and leaves than plants of the cultivar Sunbelkuropi. In addition, plants of the new Calibrachoa and the cultivar Sunbelkuropi differed slightly in petal shape and coloration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Calibrachoa.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Sunbelkuropi’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical flower and leaves of ‘Sunbelkuropi’.
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DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Plants grown in 18-cm containers for about six months were used for the aforementioned photographs and following description. Plants were grown under conditions which closely approximate commercial production conditions during the summer and early fall in Higashiomori, Shiga, Japan in an outdoor nursery. During the production period, day temperatures were about 22° C. and night temperatures were about 12° C. Plants were pinched one time.

Botanical classification: Calibrachoa sp. cultivar Sunbelkuropi.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of Calibrachoa sp. identified as code number WP49, not patented.
Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary seedling selection of Calibrachoa sp. identified as code number E1, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.
Time to initiate roots.—About one week at 20 to 25° C.
Time to produce a your rooted plant.—About three weeks at 20 to 25° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; light brown in color. Rooting habit.—Freedly branching.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Annual flowering plant; initially upright to semi-upright to decumbent; uniformly low mounded appearance. Vigorous growth habit.

Plant height (from soil level to top of plant plane).—About 6.4 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 55.6 cm.

Branching habit.—Freedly branching, lateral branches potentially developing at every node; pinching enhances lateral branch development.


Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Flowers face upright or outward; single, axillary; salverform. Flowers not persistent. Freely flowering habit. Numerous flowers per plant. Flowers faintly fragrant.

Natural flowering season.—Spring to late autumn in Japan; flowering continuous during this period.

Time to flower.—Plants begin flowering about five weeks after planting.

Flower longevity on the plant.—About seven to ten days.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 2.8 cm. Depth: About 2.7 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Elongated oblong. Color: N74C.


Flower tube (outside): 7D; venation, N77A.


Peduncles.—Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 0.7 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Angle: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144B.


Seeds.—Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Color: N186C.

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

Weather/temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Calibrachoa are tolerant to rain and wind and have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 5 to 35° C.

It is claimed:

I. A new and distinct cultivar of Calibrachoa plant named ‘Sunbelkuropi’, as illustrated and described.

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