



APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

NIEREMBERGIA

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(*Nierembergia*)

Proposed denomination: 'USNRB1201'
Trade name: Augusta Blue Skies
Application number: 09-6592
Application date: 2009/03/27
Applicant: Plant 21 LLC, Bonsall, California, United States of America
Agent in Canada: BioFlora Inc., St. Thomas, Ontario
Breeder: Ushio Sakazaki, Shiga, Japan

Varieties used for comparison: 'Blue Eyes' and 'Sunnicobu' (Summer Splash Compact Blue)

Summary: *The plants of 'USNRB1201' have an upright-bushy growth habit while those of both reference varieties are semi-upright. The plants of 'USNRB1201' are taller than those of both reference varieties. The leaf blades of 'USNRB1201' are longer than those of 'Blue Eyes'. The margin of the flowers of 'USNRB1201' are moderately reflexed while those of 'Blue Eyes' are flat to weakly reflexed and those of 'Sunnicobu' are flat. The flowers of 'USNRB1201' are smaller than those of 'Sunnicobu'. The flowers of 'USNRB1201' differ in colour from those of both reference varieties. 'USNRB1201' has a small central eye zone while both reference varieties have a medium sized eye zone.*

Description:

PLANT: upright-bushy growth habit, medium branching density
 STEM: light to medium green, no anthocyanin colouration, medium thickness

LEAF BLADE: linear, acute apex, medium green upper side, dark green lower side
 PETIOLE: none

SEPAL: acute apex

INFLORESCENCE: raceme type

FLOWER: bell shaped, cream coloured, medium degree of lobing, medium degree of reflexing, violet (RHS N82B-C) margin, violet (RHS N82A-B) middle, blue violet (RHS 86D) base, small yellow (RHS 12B) center eye zone

ANTHER: yellow

Origin and Breeding: 'USNRB1201' originated from a controlled cross between the female parent variety *Nierembergia caerulea*, and the male parent a proprietary seedling designated 'UCU-1'. The cross was the product of a planned breeding program conducted by the breeder Ushio Sakazaki in Higashiomi, Shiga, Japan on June 10, 2005. The new *Nierembergia* was selected as a single plant from the resultant progeny on July 6, 2006 in Bonsall, California, USA based on growth habit, branching characteristics, flowering time and length of flowering period. The new variety 'USNRB1201' was first propagated by vegetative cuttings on July 10, 2006 in Bonsall, California, USA.

Tests and Trials: Trials for 'USNRB1201' were conducted in a polyhouse during the summer of 2010 in St. Thomas, Ontario. Trials included 15 plants each of the candidate and reference varieties. Rooted cuttings were transplanted into 12 cm pots on April 29, 2010. Observations and measurements were taken from 10 plants of each variety on June 3, 2010. All colour determinations were made using the 2007 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart.

Comparison table for 'USNRB1201'

	'USNRB1201'	'Blue Eyes'*	'Sunnicobu'*
<i>Plant height (cm)</i>			
mean	23.9	15.8	15.5
std. deviation	1.41	2.36	2.89

Leaf blade length (cm)

mean	2.5	1.7	2.2
std. deviation	0.27	0.22	0.14

Flower diameter (cm)

mean	3.0	3.1	3.4
std. deviation	0.17	0.22	0.10

Colour of flower (RHS)

margin	N82B-C	NN155C	85C
middle	N82A-B	NN155C	85C with tones of 85A
base	86D	90D	90D

*reference varieties



Nierembergia: 'USNRB1201' (left) with reference varieties 'Blue Eyes' (center) and 'Sunnicobu' (right)



Nierembergia: 'USNRB1201' (left) with reference varieties 'Blue Eyes' (center) and 'Sunnicobu' (right)