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Yencho et al.

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(54) **ORNAMENTAL SWEETPOTATO PLANT NAMED 'SWEET CAROLINE SWEETHEART LIGHT GREEN'**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./258**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./258**
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: *Ipomoea batatas*
Varietal Denomination: **Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green**

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2007/0143896 P1 * 6/2007 Yencho et al. **Plt./258**

* cited by examiner

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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 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Ipomoea batatas 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green' is a very compact to compact, partially mounded cultivar producing many shoots and having dense foliage. This cultivar is distinguishable from other cultivars by small, heart-shaped, light green to chartreuse colored leaves and erect to semi-erect architecture. The plant has good vigor, is very well branched, and has thin stems that tend to intertwine. It is much less vigorous than *Ipomoea batatas* 'Margarita' and 'Blackie', and is well suited for container production. The production of flowers by 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green' is are even under short day conditions.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/395,060**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 31, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0143896 P1 Jun. 21, 2007

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/752,486, filed on Dec. 21, 2005.

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

2 Drawing Sheets

1

2

Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of the novel, ornamental plant variety disclosed herein is *Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam.

Variety denomination: The inventive cultivar of *Ipomoea batatas* disclosed herein has been given the varietal denomination 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Light Green'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Ipomoea species are members of the morning glory family Convolvulaceae. *Ipomoea batatas*, the cultivated species, is commonly produced for consumption and referred to as the white or yellow sweetpotato and the orange yam. The plants are typically fast growing, green vines possessing a wide variety of leaf shapes ranging from palmate and deeply lobed, to cordate or triangular shaped leaves with no lobes. Ornamental sweetpotatoes, which have been bred and selected for their unique foliage colors, leaf shapes and plant habits, typically do not produce large fleshy storage roots like the sweetpotato cultivated for consumption. In comparison, storage roots produced by ornamental sweetpotatoes are typically not as large because no selection has been exercised for yield, thus storage roots do not begin to swell until very late in the season. Further, the few storage roots that are formed by ornamental sweetpotatoes are typically not as attractive as those produced by the table-stock types as they are generally cracked, very malformed, often mottled in skin and flesh color, and are not palatable.

Late in the growing season when day-lengths begin to shorten or when the plants are stressed, ornamental sweetpotato plants produce tubular flowers that are similar to morning glories, but most plantings are dominated by the appearance of the foliage. The plants are highly desirable due to their ability to grow under varied stress conditions, cover a large space, and last the entire growing season. Moreover, these plants have few insect or disease problems.

Until the release of the Sweet Caroline series of ornamental sweet potatoes (see below) there were six popular types of *Ipomoea batatas* ornamental sweetpotatoes being cultivated primarily for their annual, summer vines in landscaping applications. These six cultivars are: 'Blackie' (not patented), having purple foliage and lavender flowers; 'Terrace Lime' (not patented) and 'Margarita' (not patented; also known as 'Sulfur'), which have large brilliant chartreuse leaves and lavender blooms; 'Black Heart' (not patented; also known as 'Ace of Spaces'), having heart-shaped leaves with burgundy purple color; 'Tricolor' (not patented; also known as 'Pink Frost'), a variegated plant having plate green, white, and pink-margined leaves; and 'Lady Fingers' (unpatented), which has medium green, dainty leaves divided into long, thin, fingerlike lobes that are complemented by burgundy stems and veins.

Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita' was recently been released in the United States, and has become widely used as a landscape annual. However, it is not suitable for mixed