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Pecota et al.

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

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

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./258**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./258**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct ornamental cultivar of *Ipomoea batatas*
called 'Sweet Caroline Light Green' is described that is a
moderately-compact plant with light green leaves that are
moderately- to deeply-lobed. The plant is distinguished by
its many short shoots, dense foliage, chartreuse leaves, and
purple band at the leaf base. Furthermore, this plant has
excellent vigor and flowers under short day conditions.
Ipomoea batatas 'Sweet Caroline Light Green' is suitable
for use in landscaping and containerized gardens.

8 Drawing Sheets

1

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 variety denomi-
nation 'Sweet Caroline Light Green'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Ipomoea species are members of the morning glory
family Convolvulaceae. *Ipomoea batatas*, commonly
referred to as the white or yellow sweetpotato and the orange
yam, are typically fast growing vines with palmately-lobed
leaves. These ornamental species produce storage roots
identical in appearance to the common sweet potato, but not
as palatable. Late in the growing season, tubular flowers
appear which are similar to morning glories, but 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.

2

Existing varieties of *Ipomoea batatas* are popular for
landscaping applications. There are currently six common
types of ornamental sweetpotatoes that are being cultivated
primarily for annual, summer vines. These six cultivars are
'Blackie' (unpatented), having dark purple-black foliage,
lavender flowers, and edible storage roots; 'Terrace Lime'
(unpatented) and 'Margarita' (unpatented; also known as
'Sulfur'), which have large brilliant chartreuse leaves and
lavender blooms; 'Black Heart' (unpatented; also known as
'Ace of Spades'), having heart-shaped leaves with burgundy
purple color; 'Tricolor' (unpatented; also known as 'Pink
Frost'), is a variegated plant which has pale green, white,
and pink-margined leaves; and 'Lady Fingers' (unpatented),
which has medium green, dainty leaves divided into long,
thin, fingerlike lobes which are complemented by burgundy
stems and veins.

Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita' has recently been released in
the United States, and has become widely used as a land-
scape annual. It is not suitable for mixed containers, as this
variety exhibits a very vigorous growth and tends to out-
compete other species. Another popular variety is 'Blackie',