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Pecota et al.

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(54) **ORNAMENTAL SWEETPOTATO PLANT
NAMED 'SWEET CAROLINE BRONZE'**

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

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(21) Appl. No.: **10/114,489**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 2, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./258**

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

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct ornamental cultivar of *Ipomoea batatas* called 'Sweet Caroline Bronze' is described as having a compact, mounded appearance with dense foliage and with a leaf shape typical of morning glory. The plant is distinguished from current cultivars known to the inventors by its striking color combination; mature leaves have a bronze to purple-bronze color with purple veins and stems which contrast sharply with the new shoots, which are chartreuse in color. Furthermore, this plant has good vigor and flowers under short day conditions. *Ipomoea batatas* 'Sweet Caroline Bronze' is suitable for use in landscaping and containerized gardens.

7 Drawing Sheets

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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 denomination 'Sweet Caroline Bronze'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Ipomoea batatas species are members of the morning glory family Convolvulaceae. *Ipomoea batatas*, commonly referred to as the white or yellow sweetpotato and the orange yarn, 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

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growing season. Moreover, these plants have few insect or disease problems.

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 landscape annual. It is not suitable for mixed containers, as this