

[54] CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT

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[57] ABSTRACT

A chrysanthemum plant with flat decorative capitulum which is a sport of the cultivar Firebrand (unpatented), being distinguished from the parent cultivar by its golden bronze ray floret color.

1 Drawing Figure

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, Ramat., herein-after referred to by the cultivar name of Garden's Bronze.

Garden's Bronze is a spontaneous mutation of the unpatented cultivar Firebrand and was selected to expand the color range of the parental variety.

Garden's Bronze was discovered and selected by Camilo Herrera V. on Feb. 10, 1971 as one plant with a flowering block of Firebrand at Jardines de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia. The first act of a sexual reproduction of Garden's Bronze was accomplished on May 10, 1971 when vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial selection in Bogota, Colombia by Reinaldo Saavedra working under formulations established and supervised by Camilo Herrera V.

Horticultural examination of selected units initiated May 1, 1977 has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for Garden's Bronze are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of, sexual reproduction.

Garden's Bronze has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and daylength. The following observations, measurements, and comparisons describe plants grown in Bogota, Colombia and Salinas, Calif. under environmental conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of Garden's Bronze which in combination distinguish this chrysanthemum as a new and distinct cultivar:

- (1) Decorative capitulum type.
- (2) Flat capitulum form.
- (3) Golden bronze ray floret color.
- (4) Diameter across face of inflorescence ranging from 90 to 115 mm. at maturity.
- (5) Uniform ten week photoperiodic flowering response to short days.
- (6) Tall plant height (requires 1-2 long day weeks prior to short days to attain a flowered plant height of 77 to 82 cm. when grown as a single stem plant for April through November flowerings in Salinas, Calif.).
- (7) Semi-upright branching pattern.

The accompanying color photographic drawing comprising sheet 1 shows typical inflorescence and foliage characteristics of Garden's Bronze. Some difficulty was encountered in obtaining accurate color representation, the photographic rendition being more

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yellow, or less bronze than the actual flower color of Garden's Bronze. The color readings within the following description are, however, correct. Sheet 2 is a black and white photographic showing the spray formation of Garden's Bronze.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present inventors the most similar existing cultivars in comparison to Garden's Bronze is the parental cultivar Firebrand.

Reference is made to attached Chart A which compares certain characteristics of Garden's Bronze with the same characteristics of Firebrand. In comparison to Firebrand, Garden's Bronze has different ray floret color. Other characteristics of Garden's Bronze are similar to those same characteristics of Firebrand.

In the following description, color references are made to A Limit Color Cascade, published by the Munsell Company, 1972 edition. The color values were determined between 9:00 A.M. and 9:30 A.M. on June 22, 1978 under 200 foot-candle light intensity at Salinas, Calif.

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, Ramat., cv Garden's Bronze.

I. INFLORESCENCE

A. Capitulum:

Form.—Flat.

Type.—Decorative.

Permanence.—14 to 18 days.

Diameter across face.—90 to 115 mm.

B. Corolla of ray florets:

Color (abaxial).—28-9 overlaid heavily with 31-13 (immature) oxidizing to 28-9 streaked lightly with 31-13 (mature).

Color (adaxial).—30-11 over 28-3.

Color (immature center).—31-13.

C. Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Present disc florets; scant pollen.

Gynoecium.—Present both ray and disc florets.

II. PLANT

A. General appearance: Semi-upright branching patterns; tall height.

B. Foliage:

Color (abaxial).—Approximately 21-15.

Color (adaxial).—Approximately 21-14 overlaid with white.

CHART A

COMPARISON OF GARDEN'S BRONZE AND FIREBRAND

Cultivar	Ray Floret Color	Dia-meter Across Face of Capitulum	Plant Height	Branch-ing Pattern	Flower-ing Res-ponse Period	Capit-ulum Form and Type
Garden's Bronze	Golden Bronze	90 to 115 mm.	Tall, 77 to 82 cm.	Semi-upright	10 week	Flat De-cora-tive
Fire-brand	Red Bronze	90 to 115 mm.	Tall, 77 to 82 cm.	Semi-upright	10 week	Flat De-cora-tive

CHART A-continued

COMPARISON OF GARDEN'S BRONZE AND FIREBRAND

Cultivar	Ray Floret Color	Dia-meter Across Face of Capitulum	Plant Height	Branch-ing Pattern	Flower-ing Res-ponse Period	Capit-ulum Form and Type
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COMPARISONS MADE OF PLANTS GROWN IN BOGATA, COLUMBIA AND SALINAS, CALIFORNIA.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum morifolium*; Ramat., known by the cultivar name Garden's Bronze and particularly characterized as to uniqueness by the combined characteristics of decorative capitulum type; flat capitulum form; golden bronze ray floret color; diameter across face of capitulum from 90 to 115 mm. at maturity; uniform ten week response to photoperiodic short-day control; tall plant height; and semi-upright branching pattern.

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