

[54] CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED
YELLOW COMET
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[21] Appl. No.: 337,425
[22] Filed: Apr. 13, 1989
[51] Int. Cl.⁵ A01H 5/00
[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./78
[58] Field of Search Plt./78

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[57] ABSTRACT
A Chrysanthemum plant named Yellow Comet particu-
larly characterized as to uniqueness by the combined
characteristics of flat capitulum form; quilled capitulum
type; yellow ray floret color; diameter across face of
capitulum of up to 9 cm at maturity; uniform nine week
photoperiodic flowering response to short days; me-
dium plant height when grown single stem; 15 to 25 cm
peduncles on open, normally terminal sprays; and excel-
lent tolerance to low temperatures for bud initiation and
flower development.

3 Drawing Sheets

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct
cultivar of Chrysanthemum, botanically known as *Den-
dranthea grandiflora*, and referred to by the cultivar
name Yellow Comet.
Yellow Comet is a spontaneous mutation of the culti-
var Comet, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,809, and
was selected to expand the color range of the parental
variety. Yellow Comet was discovered and selected as
one flowering plant within a flowering block of Comet
by Camilo Herrera in February of 1986, in a controlled
environment at Jardines de los Andes, Madrid Cundinamarca, Colombia, South America.
The first act of asexual reproduction of Yellow
Comet was accomplished when vegetative cuttings
were taken from the initial selection in August of 1986
in a controlled environment at Jardines de los Andes,
Madrid Cundinamarca, Colombia, South America, by
technicians working under formulations established and
supervised by Camilo Herrera.
Horticultural examination of controlled flowerings of
successive plantings has shown that the unique combi-
nation of characteristics as herein disclosed for Yellow
Comet are firmly fixed and are retained through succes-
sive generations of asexual reproduction.
Yellow Comet has not been observed under all possi-
ble environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
significantly with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity and daylength.
The following observations, measurements and com-
parisons describe plants grown at Jardines de los Andes,
Madrid Cundinamarca, Colombia, South America,
under greenhouse conditions which approximate those
generally used in commercial greenhouse practice.
Flowering plant material was sent from Colombia, 35
South America to Salinas, Calif., for observations, mea-
surements and color readings.
The following traits have been repeatedly observed
and are determined to be basic characteristics of Yellow
Comet, which, in combination, distinguish this Chry- 40
santhemum as a new and distinct cultivar;
1. Flat capitulum form.
2. Quilled capitulum type.
3. Yellow ray floret color.
4. Diameter across face of capitulum up to 9 cm at
maturity.

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5. Uniform nine week photoperiodic flowering re-
sponse to short days.
6. Peduncle length ranging from 15 to 25 cm.
7. Medium plant height, requiring two long day
5 weeks prior to short days to attain a flowered plant
height of 90 to 100 cm for year-round flowerings when
grown single stem.
8. Excellent tolerance to low temperatures for bud
initiation and flower development.
10 The accompanying photographic drawings show
typical inflorescence and leaf characteristics of Yellow
Comet, with the colors being as nearly true as possible
with illustrations of this type.
Sheet 1 is a color photograph of Yellow Comet
15 grown as a single stem cut spray.
Sheet 2 is a black and white photograph of three
views of the inflorescence of Yellow Comet.
Sheet 3 is a black and white photograph showing the
supper and under sides of the leaves of Yellow Comet at
20 three stages of development (mature, intermediate and
immature).
Of the commercial cultivars known to the inventor,
the most similar in comparison to Yellow Comet is the
parent cultivar Comet. All traits of Yellow Comet are
25 similar to those of Comet, except the color of the ray
florets. The color of the ray florets of Yellow Comet is
yellow, while the color of Comet is described as purple.
In the following description color references are
made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.
30 The color values were determined in Salinas, Calif. on
Oct. 14, 1988.

Classification
Botanical.—*Dendranthea grandiflora* cv Yellow
Comet.
Commercial.—Quilled cut spray mum.

INFLORESCENCE

A. Capitulum:
Form.—Flat.
Type.—Quilled.
Diameter across face.—Up to 9 cm at maturity.
B. Corolla of ray florets:
Color (general tonality from a distance of three me-
ters).—Yellow.
Color (inner surface of tubular rays).—6B.

Plant 7,233

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Color (outer surface of tubular rays).—6B to 6C.

Shape.—Straight, concave, pointed.

C. Corolla of disc florets:

Color (mature).—1B.

Color (immature).—145A. Few disc florets. Number of disc florets depending on environmental conditions.

D. Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Present on disc florets only.

Gynoecium.—Present on both ray and disc florets.

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PLANT

A. General appearance:

Height.—Medium; 90 to 100 cm as a single stem cut mum with fourteen long days prior to short days.

B. Foliage:

Color (upper surface).—137A.

Color (under surface).—148B.

Shape.—Deeply lobed and serrated.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct Chrysanthemum plant named Yellow Comet, as described and illustrated.

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