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# United States Patent [19]

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Glicenstein

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[54] **CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED SOFT LYNN**

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup> ..... A01H 5/00

[52] U.S. Cl. .... Plt./76

[58] Field of Search ..... Plt. 76, 80

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### [57] ABSTRACT

A Chrysanthemum plant named Soft Lynn particularly characterized by its flat capitulum form; decorative capitulum type; soft red-purple ray floret color with darker red-purple center of the flower; diameter across face of capitulum of 51 to 60 mm when fully opened; branching pattern is spreading and prolific, with 7 to 9 breaks after pinch when grown outside under natural daylength in fall flowerings, and 6 to 7 breaks after pinch when grown in 10 cm pots for spring flowerings; natural season flower date of August 23 to 30 when planting rooted cuttings on June 21 to June 23 in Salinas, Calif., and of September 15 to 17 when planting rooted cuttings June 11 to June 14 in Hightstown, N.J.; flowering response of 45 to 47 days after rooting in no light/no shade programs in spring; plant height of 20 to 23 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength with no growth regulators in New Jersey, 25 to 30 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength in California, and 19 to 21 cm when grown in 10 cm pots in spring with no applications of 2500 ppm B-9 SP; and durable, uniform performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

## 1

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum, botanically known as *Dendranthema grandiflora*, and referred to by the cultivar name Soft Lynn.

Soft Lynn, identified as 8204 (88-264N01), is a product of a mutation induction program. The new cultivar was discovered and selected by Leon Glicenstein on Jul. 8, 1991, in a controlled environment in Salinas, Calif. as one flowering plant within a flowering block established as rooted cuttings from stock plants which had been exposed as unrooted cuttings to an X-ray source of 1500 rads in Fort Myers, Fla. on Apr. 3, 1991. The irradiated parent cultivar was the cultivar identified as Lynn, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,171, and described as a garden mum with a flat decorative flower; light purple ray floret color with a distinct darker red-purple center of the flower; diameter across face of capitulum of 51 to 60 mm when fully opened; spreading and prolific branching pattern, with 7 to 9 breaks after pinch when grown outside under natural daylength in fall flowerings, and 6 to 8 breaks after pinch when grown in 10 cm pots for spring flowerings; natural season flowering date of August 25 to September 5 when planting rooted cuttings June 21 to 23 in Salinas, Calif., and September 26 to October 10 when planting rooted cuttings June 11 to June 18 in Hightstown, N.J.; flowering response of 45 to 50 days after

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rooting in no light/no shade programs in spring; plant height of 25 to 33 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength with no growth regulators in New Jersey, 20 to 28 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength with no growth regulators in California, and 13 to 20 cm when grown in 10 cm pots in spring with 0 to 1 applications of 2500 ppm B-9 SP. The ranges of measurements for Lynn given here are somewhat wider than the measurements described in the plant patent for Lynn. This is based on continuing flowering trials of Lynn after filing the plant patent application for Lynn.

The irradiation program resulting in Soft Lynn had as its primary objective the expansion of color ranges of the parent cultivar Lynn. The irradiation program comprised irradiating cuttings of the parent cultivar at irradiation levels of 1500, 1750 and 2000 rads. A total of 1140 cuttings harvested from a total of 225 irradiated plants were planted on May 13 and 6, 1991, respectively. Of these, 28 initial selections were made, which selections were then revegetated and reflowered. Three consecutive flowerings resulted in discarding 23 of the original 28 selections on Mar. 9, 1992. Nine reselections were made, which reselections were ultimately discarded on Nov. 10, 1992. The remaining five selections were maintained as PIs (Possible Introductions) and further trialed in Salinas, Calif., Hightstown, N.J. and

Leamington, Ontario, Canada, ultimately resulting in the decision to discard one of these codes on May 29, 1992 and to introduce the four remaining selections as Soft Lynn, Radiant Lynn, Royal Lynn and Peachy Lynn. The last three cultivars are disclosed in pending plant patent application Ser. Nos. 08/143,153, 08/143,152, and 08/142,940, respectively.

The first act of asexual reproduction of Soft Lynn was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial selection in September 1991 in a controlled environment in Salinas, Calif., by technicians working under supervision of Leon Glicenstein.

Horticultural examination of controlled flowerings of successive plantings has shown that the unique combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for Soft Lynn are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

Soft Lynn 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, without, however, any variation in genotype.

The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe plants grown in controlled open areas in Salinas, Calif., and in Hightstown, N.J. Rooted cuttings were established in soil and maintained outdoors under the natural temperature and daylength prevailing during June through October. Spring flowerings were conducted in Salinas, Calif. under greenhouse conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial greenhouse practice for small pot spring garden mum production.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of Soft Lynn, which, in combination, distinguish this Chrysanthemum as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Flat capitulum form.
2. Decorative capitulum type.
3. Soft red-purple ray floret color with darker red-purple center of the flower.
4. Diameter across face of capitulum of 51 to 60 mm when fully opened.
5. Branching pattern is spreading and prolific, with 7 to 9 breaks after pinch when grown outside under natural daylength in fall flowerings, and 6 to 7 breaks after pinch when grown in 10 cm pots for spring flowerings.
6. Natural season flower date of August 23 to 30 when planting rooted cuttings on June 21 to 23 in Salinas, Calif., and of September 15 to 17 when planting rooted cuttings June 11 to 14 in Hightstown, N.J.
7. Flowering response of 45 to 47 days after rooting into no light/no shade programs in spring.
8. Plant height of 20 to 23 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength with no growth regulators in New Jersey, 25 to 30 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength in California, and 19 to 21 cm when grown in 10 cm pots in spring with no applications of 2500 ppm B-9 SP.
9. Durable, uniform performance.

The accompanying photographic drawing is a color photograph of Soft Lynn grown as a pinched garden mum under natural season outside conditions in Salinas, Calif., with the colors being as nearly true as possible with illustrations of this type. Plants were grown outside and dug and transplanted into 15 cm bulb pans at flowering time for photography purposes.

Of the commercial cultivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to Soft Lynn is the par-

ent cultivar Lynn. In the above description of Soft Lynn the ranges of values for Soft Lynn are much narrower than the ranges of values given for Lynn. This is based on the fact that Lynn was flowered over many years, while Soft Lynn was flowered over a period of only one and a half years. All traits of Soft Lynn are similar to those of Lynn, except for the ray floret color, the flowering response under natural season flowering conditions, and the plant height. The ray floret color of Soft Lynn is a soft red-purple with darker red-purple center of the flower, while the ray floret color of Lynn is light purple with a darker purple center of the flower. Under natural season outdoor flowering conditions in New Jersey, Soft Lynn flowers 6 to 12 days earlier than Lynn, with an overall shorter and smaller plant by 3 to 5 cm in height. Under natural season outdoor conditions in Salinas, Soft Lynn flowers 3 to 4 days earlier than Lynn, with 3 to 5 cm shorter plant height. Soft Lynn is also readily distinguished from the afore-mentioned sibling cultivars at least in ray floret coloration, flowering response, and in plant height as described above.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart. The color values were determined on plant material grown as a pinched garden mum grown under natural season outside conditions in Salinas, Calif. on Aug. 24, 1993.

#### Classification:

*Botanical.*—*Dendranthema grandiflora* cv Soft Lynn.

*Commercial.*—Flat decorative spray pot mum and garden mum.

#### INFLORESCENCE

##### A. Capitulum:

*Form.*—Flat.

*Type.*—Decorative.

*Diameter across face.*—51 to 60 mm when fully opened.

##### B. Corolla of ray florets:

*Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters).*—Soft red-purple ray floret color with darker red-purple center of the flower.

*Color (upper surface).*—Fully mature outer petals 69B. Center of the flower strongly overlaid with 70C.

*Color (under surface).*—Closest to 75D.

*Shape.*—Cross section of young ray florets concave, longitudinal section of outer ray florets convex.

##### C. Corolla of disc florets:

*Color (mature).*—9A.

*Color (immature).*—144C.

##### D. Reproductive organs

*Androecium.*—Present on disc florets only; very few, no pollen.

*Gynoecium.*—Present on both ray and disc florets.

#### PLANT

##### A. General appearance:

*Height.*—20 to 23 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength with no growth regulators in New Jersey, 25 to 30 cm when grown in fall under natural daylength in California, and 19 to 21 cm when grown in 10 cm pots in spring with no applications of 2500 ppm B-9 SP.

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*Branching pattern.*—Spreading and prolific, with 7 to 9 breaks after pinch when grown outside under natural daylength in fall flowerings, and 6 to 7 breaks after pinch when grown in 10 cm pots for spring flowerings.

B. Foliage:

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*Color (upper surface).*—147A.  
*Color (under surface).*—147B.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct Chrysanthemum plant named Soft Lynn, as described and illustrated.

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U.S. Patent

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