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Anderson

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[54] BRACHYCOME PLANT NAMED  
‘STRAWBERRY MOUSSE’  
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Australia  
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Australia  
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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./68.1

[56] References Cited  
PUBLICATIONS  
GTITM Upovrom Listing for AUPBR 93/103 for Straw-  
berry Mousse’ on application filed Apr. 15, 1993.  
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[57] ABSTRACT  
A new and distinct Brachycome named ‘Strawberry  
Mousse’, characterized by its low-growing and spreading  
plant habit; fast crop time; moderate vigor; freely branching  
plant habit; relatively large inflorescences with pink ray  
florets and bright yellow-green disc florets; and long, erect  
peduncles that hold inflorescences above the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of Brachycome plant, botanically known as a Brachycome  
hybrid and referred to by the cultivar name ‘Strawberry  
Mousse’.

The new cultivar originated from a cross made by the  
inventor of *Brachycome angustifolia*, as the male or pollen  
parent, with *Brachycome formosa*, as the female or seed  
parent. The cultivar ‘Strawberry Mousse’ was discovered  
and selected by the inventor as a flowering plant within the  
progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in  
Merricks, Victoria, Australia. While the plant of this disclo-  
sure has been denominated ‘Strawberry Mousse’ for pur-  
poses of international recognition, it is contemplated that  
this plant will be sold under the trademark “Billabong” as  
“Billabong” ‘Strawberry Mousse’ in the United States.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal  
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Merricks,  
Victoria, Australia, has shown that the unique features of this  
new Brachycome are stable and are reproduced true to type  
in successive propagations.

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible  
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary some-  
what with variations in environment such as temperature,  
daylength and light intensity, without, however, any vari-  
ance in genotype.

Compared to the parent cultivar *Brachycome angustifolia*,  
plants of the new Brachycome have larger leaves and larger  
inflorescences. Compared to the parent cultivar *Brachycome*  
*formosa*, plants of the new Brachycome are faster in growth  
rate, more vigorous, have longer peduncles, have pink rather  
than purple ray florets, and the adaxial surface of young  
leaves is green rather than dark purple. A detailed compari-  
son of the differences between *Brachycome formosa* and the  
cultivar ‘Strawberry Mousse’ appears in Chart A at the end  
of the specification.

The new Brachycome can also be compared to the culti-  
var Pink Swirl which is thought to have the same parents as  
the new Brachycome. In side-by-side comparisons con-  
ducted in Merricks, Victoria, Australia, under commercial  
conditions, plants of the new Brachycome are more vigor-  
ous, ray floret color is paler pink, and the adaxial surface of  
the leaves is green rather than purple.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly  
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of  
‘Strawberry Mousse’ which distinguish ‘Strawberry  
Mousse’. as a new and distinct cultivar:

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1. Low-growing and spreading plant habit.
2. Fast crop time.
3. Moderate vigor.
4. Freely branching plant habit.
5. Relatively large inflorescences with pink ray florets and  
bright yellow-green disc florets.
6. Long, erect peduncles that hold inflorescences above  
the foliage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VIEWS OF THE  
DRAWING

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as  
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-  
ductions of this type.

The first photograph, at the top, comprises a top perspec-  
tive view of a single potted plant of ‘Strawberry Mousse’.

The second photograph comprises a close-up view of  
inflorescences of plants of ‘Strawberry Mousse’. Floret  
color in the photographs may appear different from the  
actual floret color due to light reflectance.

The following observations, measurements, values, and  
comparisons describe plants grown in Merricks, Victoria,  
Australia, under outdoor conditions with day temperatures  
ranging from 10 to 30C, night temperatures ranging from 5  
to 20C, and light levels ranging from 5,000 to 9,000 foot-  
candles. Color references are made to The Royal Horticul-  
tural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of  
ordinary dictionary significance are used.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

CLASSIFICATION:

Botanical.—Brachycome hybrid cultivar ‘Strawberry  
Mousse’.

Commercial.—Brachycome.

PARENTAGE:

Male or pollen parent.—Brachycome angustifolia.

Female or seed parent.—Brachycome formosa.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—Summer: 10 to 20  
days at temperatures of 25C. Winter: 15 to 30 days  
at temperatures of 20C.



**Rooting habit.**—Fibrous and freely branching.

**Plant description:**

**General appearance.**—Low-growing, spreading, herbaceous plant with spatulate fan-shaped foliage and erect flower stems. Appropriate for 12.5 pots to 25-cm hanging basket containers. To produce a 15-cm finished flowering plant from rooted cuttings, 8 to 12 weeks are required depending on temperature and light level.

**Plant height:** 11 to 14 cm from soil level to top of inflorescences.

**Branching:** Freely branching, typically 2 to 5 lateral branches develop when the terminal apex is removed (pinched). Lateral branches are typically 3 to 5.5 cm in length.

**Growth rate.**—Moderate.

**Vigor.**—Moderate

**Foliage description.**—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity: 12 to 20 per lateral branch. Leaf shape: Spatulate, fan-shaped. Leaf apex: Trilobate. Leaf base: Cuneate, attenuate. Leaf margin: Deeply lobed. Leaf aspect: Flat. Leaf length: 2.5 to 4.5 cm. Leaf width: 1.5 to 2.5 cm. Leaf texture: Smooth, glabrous. Leaf attachment: Sessile. Leaf color: Young and fully expanded leaves: Abaxial surface: 137A. Adaxial surface: 138A. Venation: Abaxial surface: 137A. Adaxial surface: 138B.

**Flowering description:**

**Inflorescence.**—Single daisy-type composite inflorescence form. Florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences last on the plant for 3 to 4 weeks and about 1 week as a fresh cut flower. Inflorescences semi-persistent.

**Natural flowering season.**—Natural flowering season is spring to fall. Plants flower continuously during this period.

**Quantity of inflorescences.**—One per lateral branch.

**Inflorescence diameter.**—2.8 to 3.8 cm.

**Inflorescence depth (height).**—About 1 cm.

**Fragrance.**—Not detectable.

**Ray florets.**—Quantity: 18 to 24 florets per inflorescence. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: 2 to 3 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening, abaxial surface: 73B. Mature, abaxial surface: 73B, with further development, florets darken to 78B. Mature, adaxial surface: 65C.

**Disc florets.**—Shape: Tubular. Diameter of disc: 6 to 9 mm. Disc floret length: 3 to 4 mm. Disc floret width: About 1 mm. Color: Immature: 154C. Mature: 154B. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: Numerous.

**Peduncle.**—Length: About 9.2 cm. Strength: Moderately strong, inflorescences held erect above foliage. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 139A.

**Flower bud.**—Shape: Globular. Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: 4 to 5 mm. Color: 139C.

**Involucral bracts.**—Arrangement: Imbricated. Quantity: 16 to 20 per inflorescence. Shape: Elliptic to oblong. Apex: Obtuse. Margin: Ciliate. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Abaxial surface: 143C. Adaxial surface: 143C.

**Androecium.**—Stamen number: Five per floret. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: About 1 mm. Pollen color: 155A.

**Gynoecium.**—Pistil number: One per floret. Stigma shape: Bilobate. Style length: About 2 mm.

**Disease resistance:** No susceptibility nor resistance to fungal, bacterial or viral pathogens has been noted.

**Seed production:** Seed production is typically not observed.

CHART A

CHARACTERISTIC	Strawberry MOUSSE'	<i>Brachycome</i> <i>formosa</i>
PLANT HEIGHT	11 to 14 cm	2 to 15 cm
GROWTH RATE	Moderate	Slow
VIGOR	Moderate	Low
LATERAL BRANCH LENGTH	3 to 5.5 cm	4 to 8.5 cm
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG LEAVES, ABAXIAL SURFACE	137A	139A
LEAF COLOR, YOUNG LEAVES, ADAXIAL SURFACE	138A	83A
LEAF COLOR, MATURE LEAVES, ABAXIAL SURFACE	137A	137A
LEAF COLOR, MATURE LEAVES, ADAXIAL SURFACE	138B	138B
RAY FLORET COLOR, OPENING	73B	78C
RAY FLORET COLOR, MATURE ABAXIAL SURFACE	73B	78A
RAY FLORET COLOR, MATURE ADAXIAL SURFACE	65C	78C
PEDUNCLE LENGTH	About 9.2 cm	About 8.3 cm

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Brachycome plant named 'Strawberry Mousse', as illustrated and described.

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