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[54] ARGYRANTHEMUM FRUTESCENS CULTIVAR
NAMED 'PRIMROSE PETITE'
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Australia
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[58] Field of Search Plt./68.1

[56] References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
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OTHER PUBLICATIONS
GTITM UPOV-ROM Citation for 'Primrose Petite' as per
Au PBR 95017, Mar. 12, 1997.
GTITM UPOV-ROM Citation for 'Primrose Petite' as Per
NZ PBR CHR014, Oct. 14, 1996.
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[57] ABSTRACT
A new and distinct selection of Silver Flower which shall be
referred hereinafter as *Argyranthemum frutescens* cultivar
'Primrose Petite'. *Argyranthemum frutescens* cultivar 'Prim-
rose Petite' differs distinctively from other *Argyranthemum*
frutescens plants by its unique combination of dense, low
uniform growth habit with short grey foliage and lemon
yellow bloom color.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTON

This invention relates to a new and distinct selection of
Argyranthemum frutescens (L.) Schutz-Bip., native to the
Canary Islands and a member of the Compositae family. 5
Argyranthemum frutescens cv. 'Primrose Petite' was the
result of an uncontrolled open pollinated seed. The seed
parent was *Argyranthemum frutescens* cv. 'Harvest Gold',
however, the pollen parent was unknown. I selected this
seedling in October 1995. My discovery was made at 100 10
Boundary Road, Narre Warren East, Victoria, Australia.
Selection was based on the dense uniform growth with short
grey foliage and lemon yellow bloom color. My new plant
has been asexually reproduced by cutting since the discov-
ery in 1995 at 100 Boundary Road, Narre Warren East, 15
Victoria, Australia and later at Monrovia Nursery Company,
18331 E. Foothill Boulevard, Azusa, Calif. Had this seedling
not been discovered and propagated it may have been lost to
mankind. It is unlikely these particular select and favorable
attributes of this plant could be conveyed to progeny through 20
sexual reproduction in the next generation. However,
through extensive propagation by rooting of the plant it has
been established that the novel exceptional characteristics of
this plant are stable and reliably passed on to clonal speci-
mens through asexual reproduction. 25

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Argyranthemum frutescens cv. 'Primrose Petite' has a
dense low uniform growth habit. It clearly appears to have 30
a ground hugging habit. When compared to four other
named selections (cv. Annabel (U.S. Plant Pat. application
Ser. No. 08/851,475), cv. Blanche (U.S. Plant Pat. applica-
tion No. 08/846,476), cv. Gretel (U.S. Plant Pat. application
Ser. No. 08/846,475), cv. Carmella (U.S. Plant Pat. applica- 35
tion Ser. No. 08/846,477) at seven months of age in Azusa,
Calif., the foliage of cultivar 'Primrose Petite' is only 9 cm
high whereas other selections range 20–24 cm in height.
This low habit does not appear to become shrub like and
instead remains more flat topped. As a result of this growth 40
the overall flowering arrangement is also in a somewhat flat
arrangement. A seven month old container plant in full
flower exhibits a height inclusive of flowers of 15 cm
tapering only to 12 cm on the edges of the plant. This is a

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totally different habit from the above mentioned cultivars
which exhibit a rounded subshrub habit.

Ultimately my selection will achieve a height of 22.3 cm
with a 1.3 cm deviation. This is the shortest of the selections
compared and has the smallest deviation in uniformity of
height.

The lemon yellow bloom color is nicely set above the
thick grey-green foliage giving an overall chartreuse look to
the plant.

Argyranthemum frutescens 'Primrose Petite' has tolerated
a minus five degree Celsius temperature which is equivalent
to a USDA hardiness zone seven with no harm or damage.
Winter protection is necessary from heavy frost.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

The accompanying photograph shows my selection in
bloom. The color is consistent with no significant flower
color fading with age.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Below is a detailed description of *Argyranthemum frute-*
scens cultivar 'Primrose Petite', the color terminology is
from the British Horticultural Color Charts. Measurements
are based on 20 random samples taken in Australia.

Overall habit.—Perennial, low subshrub.
Overall size: Almost twice as wide than tall.
Height.—22.3 cm (±1.3 cm).
Width.—40.2 cm (±4.0 cm).
Bloom season in Australia: Heaviest bloom in Spring for 10
weeks.
Melbourne.—6–8 months per year does not flower in
winter.
Brisbane.—4–6 months per year does not flower in
summer.
Foliage:
Bloom lastingness.—7 to 14 days per flower.
Stem.—Coloration Spinach Green 0960/3 to 0960/2.
Arrangement.—Alternate.
Surface.—Upper: glabrous. Lower: glabrous.
Shape.—Pinnatisect, primary segment, 3–5.

Margins.—Vary from deeply to lighted lobed, lobes end with mucronulate tip.

Size.—Length: 42.7 mm (± 4.7 mm). Width: 27.2 mm (± 3.5 mm).

Color.—Upper and lower leaf surface: Both sides are Leek Green 000858.

Texture.—Thick, succulent.

Inflorescences:

Bud shape.—Globose.

Bud Length.—8 mm.

Bud width.—8 mm.

Bud color.—Scheeles Green 860/2. Paper like bracts Mars Orange 013/3 with tint of Maroon 1030/5.

Diameter.—3.5 cm to 4.0 cm.

Arrangement.—Heterogamus capitula, 1 per peduncle.

Peduncle length.—3.5 cm to 5.5 cm.

Disc color.—Barium Yellow 503/0.

Disc head diameter.—11.8 mm (± 0.8 mm).

Ray floret number.—Average 20–23.

Disc floret reproductive organs.—Pistillate and staminate organs present.

Ray floret reproductive organs.—Pistillate organs present.

Ray floret upper surface color.—Dresden Yellow 64/3, no fading with age.

Ray floret undersurface color.—Mimosa Yellow 602/3, no fading with age.

Ray floret aspect.—Flattened at right angles to peduncle at full anthesis.

Ray floret shape.—Ligulate.

Ray floret length.—18 mm to 20 mm.

Ray floret width.—6 mm 7 mm.

Basal line or spot.—Absent.

Fruit.—A 2–4 angled cypsela, winged.

Fragrance.—Faint light scent.

Disease resistance: The rust diseases of the genera *Coleosporium* and *Cronartium* are not known to occur on my selection in Australia.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Argyranthemum frutescens* plant substantially as shown and described which differs distinctively from other *Argyranthemum frutescens* plants by its unique combination of a dense, low uniform growth habit with short grey foliage and lemon yellow bloom color.

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