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**VandenBerg**

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(54) **CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED**  
**'MASCOTA'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant named  
'Mascota', characterized by its anemone-type inflorescences  
that are about 5.9 cm in diameter; attractive light lavender  
ray and dark purple-tipped disc florets; freely flowering with  
numerous inflorescences per stem; early flowering, response  
time about 50 days; dark green foliage; strong stems; and  
good postproduction longevity with inflorescences main-  
taining good substance and color for about three weeks in an  
interior environment.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of Chrysanthemum plant, botanically known as *Dendran-*  
*thema grandiflora* and referred to by the cultivar name  
Mascota.

The new Chrysanthemum is a product of a planned  
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Salinas,  
Calif. The objective of the breeding program is to create new  
cut Chrysanthemum cultivars having inflorescences with  
desirable colors and good form and substance.

The new Chrysanthemum originated from a cross made  
by the Inventor in November, 1993, in Salinas, Calif., of the  
Chrysanthemum cultivar Dark Eyes, disclosed in U.S. Plant  
Pat. No. 8,244, as the female, or seed, parent with a  
proprietary Chrysanthemum seedling selection identified as  
0052, as the male, or pollen, parent.

The cultivar Mascota was discovered and selected by the  
Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated  
cross in a controlled environment in Salinas, Calif., in Oct.,  
1994. The selection of this plant was based on its desirable  
inflorescence color and good form and substance.

Asexual reproduction of the new Chrysanthemum by  
terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Alva,  
Fla., has shown that the unique features of this new Chry-  
santhemum are stable and reproduced true to type in suc-  
cessive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The cultivar Mascota has not been observed under all  
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
somewhat with variations in environment such as  
temperature, daylength and light intensity, without,  
however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Mascota'.  
These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Mascota'  
as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Anemone-type inflorescences that are about 5.9 cm in  
diameter.

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2. Attractive light lavender ray and dark purple-tipped  
disc florets.

3. Freely flowering with numerous inflorescences per  
stem.

4. Early flowering, response time is about 50 days.

5. Dark green foliage.

6. Thick and strong stems.

7. Good postproduction longevity with inflorescences  
maintaining good substance and color for about three weeks  
in an interior environment.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

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

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side per-  
spective view of a typical flowering stem of 'Mascota'  
grown as a spray-type cut Chrysanthemum.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a top  
perspective view of typical inflorescences of the cultivar  
Mascota.

The photograph at the top of the third sheet comprises a  
close-up view of upper and lower surfaces of typical inflo-  
rescences of the cultivar Mascota.

The photograph at the bottom of the third sheet comprises  
a close-up view of typical young and mature leaves of the  
cultivar of Mascota. Floret and foliage colors in the photo-  
graphs may differ from the actual colors due to light reflec-  
tance.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

In the following description, color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where  
general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.  
The following observations and measurements describe  
plants grown in Salinas, Calif., under conditions which  
approximate commercial practice in a double-layer  
polyethylene-covered greenhouse. Two-week old rooted

cuttings were planted on Feb. 11, 1999 and received 21 long day/short nights followed by short day/long nights until flowering. Plants were grown as single-stem cut chrysanthemums. During the production time, the following environmental conditions were measured: day temperatures ranging from 18 to 27° C.; night temperatures ranging from 16 to 18° C.; and light level of about 2,000 to 4,000 foot-candles. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for six to ten typical flowering stems.

Botanical classification: *Dendranthema grandiflora* cultivar Mascota.

Commercial classification: Anemone spray-type cut chrysanthemum with oblong-shaped ray florets.

Parentage:

*Female or seed parent.*—*Dendranthema grandiflora* cultivar Dark Eyes, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,244.

*Male or pollen parent.*—Proprietary *Dendranthema grandiflora* seedling selection, code number 0052.

Propagation:

*Type.*—Terminal tip cuttings.

*Time to rooting.*—Seven to ten days with soil temperatures of 21° C.

*Rooting habit.*—Fine, fibrous and well-branched.

Plant description:

*Appearance.*—Perennial herbaceous anemone spray-type cut flower. Stems upright, uniform habit and freely branching.

*Flowering stem length.*—About 91 cm.

*Stem color.*—144A.

*Foliage description.*—Arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 12.4 cm. Width: About 7.7 cm. Apex: Cuspidate to mucronate. Base: Mostly truncate. Margin: Palmately lobed. Texture: Upper and lower surfaces slightly pubescent. Veins prominent on lower surface. Color: Young foliage upper surface: Darker than 147A. Young foliage lower surface: Darker than 147B. Mature foliage upper surface: 147A. Mature foliage lower surface: 147B. Venation upper surface: 147B. Venation lower surface: 147B. Petiole: Length: About 2.6 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Color: Upper, 147B–147C; lower, 147B–147C; margins, 147A.

Flowering description:

*Appearance.*—Anemone spray-type inflorescence form with oblong-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences borne on terminals, arising from leaf axils. Disc and ray florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

*Flowering response.*—Under natural conditions, plant flowers in the autumn/winter in the Northern Hemisphere. At other times of the year, inflorescence initiation and development can be induced under

short day/long night conditions (at least 13.5 hours of darkness). Plants exposed to three weeks of long day/short night conditions after planting followed by photoinductive short day/long night conditions flower about 50 days later.

*Postproduction longevity.*—In an interior environment, flowering stems will maintain good color and substance for about three weeks in an interior environment after one week of cool storage.

*Quantity of inflorescences.*—Freely flowering with about 15 inflorescences per flowering stem.

*Inflorescence size.*—Diameter: About 5.9 cm. Depth (height): About 1.6 cm. Diameter of disc: About 3 cm. Diameter of receptacle: About 8 mm.

*Ray florets.*—Shape: Oblong. Length: About 2.75 cm. Width: About 9.5 mm. Apex: Dentate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Satiny, smooth, glabrous. Aspect: Initially upright, then perpendicular to peduncle; eventually reflexing. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 22. Color: When opening, upper surface: 76C–76D. When opening, lower surface: Center, 70A–70B; margins, 70C–70D. Mature, upper surface: 76C–76D. Mature, lower surface: Center, 70B–70D.

*Disc florets.*—Shape: Elongated tubular; flared. Length: About 1.25 cm. Width: Apex, about 4 mm; base, about 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: Numerous, typically more than 100. Color: Immature: Apex: Close to 79A, more red purple. Mid-section: Light green. Base: Light green to white. Mature, tube: Apex: More red purple than 83A. Mid-section: White to light green, close to 154A. Base: White. Mature, throat: White.

*Peduncle.*—Aspect: Strong, angled about 40° to the stem. Length: First peduncle: About 11 cm. Fourth peduncle: About 14.5 cm. Seventh peduncle: About 17.5 cm. Texture: Very fine pubescence. Color: 144A.

*Reproductive organs.*—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther color: 12A. Amount of pollen: Scarce. Pollen color: 12A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets.

Disease resistance: Resistance to diseases common to Chrysanthemums has not been observed on plants grown under commercial conditions.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Chrysanthemum have demonstrated good tolerance to temperatures as low as 5° C.

Seed production: Seed production has not been observed.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant named 'Mascota', as illustrated and described.

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