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Salmon

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(54) **BRACTEANTHA PLANT NAMED**
'FLORABELLA GOLD'

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./359**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./359**

(56) **References Cited**
PUBLICATIONS

GTITM UPOV ROM Citation for 'Florabella Gold' as per
CA PBR 99-2001; Dec. 20, 1999.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha bracteata* named
'Florabella Gold', characterized by its upright, outwardly
spreading and rounded plant form; compact plant habit;
small lanceolate leaves; yellow-colored involucral bracts
and disc florets; and short peduncles that hold inflorescences
above the foliage.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Bracteantha* plant, botanically known as *Bracteantha*
bracteata and referred to by the cultivar name 'Florabella
Gold'.

The new *Bracteantha* is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Gapsted, Victoria,
Australia. The objective of the program is to create and
develop *Bracteantha* cultivars with a compact growth habit,
small leaves, numerous inflorescences, bright involucral
bract colors, and short peduncles.

The new *Bracteantha* originated from a cross by the
Inventor of an unidentified yellow involucral bract colored
proprietary selection of *Bracteantha bracteata* as the
female, or seed, parent with an unidentified white involucral
bract-colored proprietary selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*
as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Bracteantha* was
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a plant within the
progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in
Gapsted, Victoria, Australia in 1997. The selection of the
new *Bracteantha* was based on its growth habit, leaf size and
peduncle length as plants of the new *Bracteantha* are more
compact, have smaller leaves and shorter peduncles than
plants of the parent selections.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Bracteantha* by terminal
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Gapsted,
Victoria, Australia, has shown that the unique features of this
new *Bracteantha* are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

The new *Bracteantha* has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture, daylength, light intensity, photoperiod, and water and
nutritional status without, however, any variance in geno-
type.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of
'Florabella Gold' and distinguish the new *Bracteantha* as a
new and distinct cultivar:

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1. Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded plant form.
2. Compact plant habit.
3. Small lanceolate leaves.
4. Yellow-colored involucral bracts and disc florets.
5. Short peduncles that hold inflorescences above the
foliage.

Plants of the new *Bracteantha* differ from its sibling
cultivars, 'Florabella Pink', U.S. Plant patent application
Ser. No. 09/740,534, and 'Florabella White', U.S. Plant
patent application Ser. No. 09/740,535 primarily in involu-
cral bract coloration.

The new *Bracteantha* can be compared to the *Bracteantha*
bracteata cultivar 'Gold 'N' Bronze', disclosed in U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 10,193. In side-by-side comparisons conducted by
the Inventor in Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, plants of the
new *Bracteantha* differ in involucral bract color and are
taller, have broader leaves, and have shorter and thicker
peduncles than plants of 'Gold 'N' Bronze'.

The new *Bracteantha* can also be compared to the *Brac-*
teantha bracteata cultivar 'Diamond Head', not patented. In
side-by-side comparisons conducted by the Inventor in
Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, plants of the new *Bracteantha*
are taller, have broader leaves, grow faster, and have larger
inflorescences than plants of 'Diamond Head'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates 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. Colors in the photograph may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Bracteantha. The photograph comprises a side perspective
view of a typical plant of 'Florabella Gold' in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values
describe plants grown in Gapsted, Victoria, Australia, under

outdoor conditions with day temperatures ranging from 15 to 40° C., night temperatures ranging from 8 to 25° C., and light levels ranging from 5,000 to 9,000 foot candles. Rooted liners of the new *Bracteantha* were planted in 15-cm containers and grown for about 8 to 10 weeks. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Bracteantha bracteata* cultivar 'Florabella Gold'.

Parentage:

Male or pollen parent.—Unidentified white involucre bract-colored selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*, not patented.

Female or seed parent.—Unidentified yellow involucre bract-colored selection of *Bracteantha bracteata*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 10 to 20 days at temperatures of 20 to 25° C. Winter: About 15 to 35 days at temperatures of 20° C.

Root description.—Fine to fibrous, freely branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded herbaceous plant with lanceolate foliage and inflorescences held above the foliage on short peduncles. Appropriate for 15 pots to 25 -cm hanging basket containers.

Crop time.—Moderately fast growth rate; to produce a finished 15-cm containerized plant from rooted cuttings, about 8 to 10 weeks are required depending on temperature and light level.

Plant height.—About 30 to 45 cm from soil level to top of inflorescences.

Plant width.—About 30 to 45 cm.

Branching.—Moderate, removal of terminal apex enhances branching; typically about 5 to 12 lateral branches per plant.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 9 to 21 cm. Width: About 4 to 7 mm. Internode length: About 0.6 to 1.7 cm. Texture: Moderately pubescent; sometimes with very faint ridges. Color: 143C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Quantity: About 25 to more than 60 per lateral branch. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Entire; slightly recurved. Apex: Acute. Base: Decurrent, clasping. Length: About 2.4 to 11.3 cm. Width: About 0.5 to 1.6 cm. Texture: Thin; slightly rough; sparsely pubescent on both surfaces. Color: Young leaves, upper surface: 147A. Young leaves, lower surface: 147B. Fully mature leaves, upper surface: 148A.

Fully mature leaves, lower surface: 148B. Venation, both surfaces: 145B.

Flowering description:

Inflorescence form.—Daisy-type composite inflorescence form. Inflorescences arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last on the plant for 3 to 5 weeks and 2 to 3 weeks as a fresh cut flower, and more than 6 weeks as a dried cut flower. Inflorescences persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Natural flowering season is spring to fall. Plants flower continuously during this period. Inflorescences close when wet and open when dry.

Quantity of inflorescences.—About 2 to 4 inflorescences and about 2 to 4 flower buds per lateral branch.

Inflorescence aspect.—Flat to slightly cupped.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 4.8 to 5.8 cm.

Inflorescence depth (height).—About 1.9 to 2.2 cm.

Disc diameter.—About 1.9 to 2.2 cm.

Fragrance.—Slight honey.

Involucre bracts.—Appearance: Satiny. Texture: Papery. Aspect: Flat. Shape: Triangular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: About 0.6 to 1.9 cm. Width: About 2 to 7 mm. Color: When opening, upper surface: 14A to 17A. When opening, lower surface: 12A. Mature, upper surface: 14B. Mature, lower surface: 13B.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular with five lobes. Diameter: About 1 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Color: Immature: 154C. Mature: 24B to 25B.

Peduncle.—Length: About 11.1 to 18.3 cm. Aspect: Erect to about 25° from vertical. Strength: Moderately strong, brittle when young, inflorescences held erect above foliage. Color: 146D. Texture: Slightly rough.

Flower bud.—Shape: Broadly ovoid. Length: About 1.2 to 1.9 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 to 1.7 cm. Color: Towards apex, 30A; towards base, 21C to 154D.

Androecium.—Present only on disc florets. Stamen number: One per disc floret. Anther shape: Linear. Anther color: 24A. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: 23A.

Gynoecium.—Present only on disc florets. Pistil number: One per disc floret. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: 23A. Stigma shape: Bilobate. Stigma color: 23A.

Seed.—Seed production has been observed.

Disease resistance: Susceptible to White Rust, causal agent *Albugo candida*.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Bracteantha* plant named 'Florabella Gold', as illustrated and described.

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