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Vandenberg

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(54) **CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED ‘DANCE’**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant named ‘Dance’, characterized by its large quilled decorative-type inflorescences that are about 13.5 cm in diameter; attractive purple ray florets; response time about 55 days; dark green foliage; strong stems; and good postproduction longevity with inflorescences maintaining good substance and color for about three weeks in an interior environment.

2 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 *Chrysanthemum×morifolium* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Dance’.

The new Chrysanthemum is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Salinas, Calif. and Alva, Fla. 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 January, 1994, in Salinas, Calif., of the Chrysanthemum cultivar Augusta, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary Chrysanthemum seedling selection identified as 1639, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent.

The cultivar Dance was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Alva, Fla., in November, 1996. The selection of this plant was based on its desirable inflorescence colors 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 Chrysanthemum are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Dance 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 ‘Dance’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Dance’ as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Large quilled decorative-type inflorescences that are about 13.5 cm in diameter.

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2. Attractive purple ray florets.

3. Response time about 55 days.

4. Dark green foliage.

5. Thick and strong stems.

6. 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 if this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Chrysanthemum.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering stem of ‘Dance’ grown as a disbudded-type cut Chrysanthemum.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of ‘Dance’.

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. 10, 2000 and received 18 long day/short nights followed by short day/long nights until flowering. Plants were grown as single-stem disbudded cut chrysanthemums. During the production time, the following environmental conditions were measured: day temperatures, 18 to 27° C., night temperatures, 16 to 18° C., and light levels, 2,000 to 4,000 foot-candles. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for six to ten typical flowering stems and were taken during the week on Apr. 30, 2000.

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Dance.

Commercial classification: Quilled decorative-type cut *Chrysanthemum*.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Augusta, not patented.

Male or pollen parent.—Proprietary *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* seedling selection identified as code number 1639, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal tip cuttings.

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

Root description.—Fine, fibrous and well-branched.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Herbaceous quilled decorative-type cut flower.

Flowering stem description.—Aspect: Erect. Length: About 88.9 cm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Internode length: About 5.1 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 11.3 cm. Width: About 6.1 cm. Apex: Cuspidate to mucronate. Base: Mostly cuneate with truncate tendencies. Margin: Palmately lobed; sinuses mostly divergent. Texture: Upper and lower surfaces pubescent; somewhat glossy; thick, rough and leathery; veins prominent on lower surface. Color: Young foliage upper surface: Darker than 147A. Young foliage lower surface: Slightly darker than 147B. Mature foliage upper surface: Darker than 147A; venation, close to 147A to 147B. Mature foliage lower surface: Slightly darker than 147B; venation, close to 147B. Petiole: Length: About 2.9 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color: Close to 146B.

Flowering description:

Appearance.—Decorative-type inflorescence form with elongated quilled-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 two or three weeks of long day/short night conditions after planting followed by photoinductive short day/long night conditions flower about 55 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.—Typically grown as a disbud with one terminal inflorescence per flowering stem.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 13.5 cm. Depth (height): About 4.6 cm. Diameter of disc: About 5 mm, inconspicuous. Diameter of receptacle: About 1.2 cm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated, quilled. Length: About 7.1 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Apex: Rounded, mammillate or emarginate. Base: Fused. Texture: Satiny, smooth, glabrous. Aspect: Initially incurved to mostly straight with upward curve towards apex; when mature, about 65° from vertical. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 345 arranged in numerous rows. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 77A to 77B. Mature, inside and outside of tube: 77B to 77C, fading to 75A to 75C with subsequent development.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; slightly flared at apex. Length: About 7 mm. Width: Apex: About 2 mm. Base: About 1.25 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: Few, scattered at center of receptacle, about 22. Color: Immature: 144A. Mature: Apex: 7A. Mid-section and base: 155D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther color: 12A. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: 14A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets.

Seed.—Seed production has not been observed.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens common to *Chrysanthemum* has not been observed on plants grown under commercial conditions.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* have demonstrated good tolerance to night temperatures as low as 5° C. and day temperatures lower than 40° C.

It is claimed:

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

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