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(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Burrows**

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(54) **HELICHRYSUM PLANT NAMED 'PROSPI'**

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

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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 25 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Helichrysum* named 'Prospi'  
that exhibits insignificant flowers when compared to stan-  
dard varieties and is characterized by its fine silver/green  
foliage and compact plant habit. These attributes in combi-  
nation distinguish 'Prospi' from all other existing varieties.

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**3 Drawing Sheets**

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION**

*Helichrysum xambiguum*.

**VARIETY DENOMINATION**

'Prospi'.

**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED  
APPLICATIONS**

This application is related to another application entitled  
*Helichrysum Plant Named 'Prosil'*, Ser. No. 09/654,366,  
filed Sep. 1, 2000.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Helichrysum xambiguum* named 'Prospi'. The new plant  
was bred and selected in 1995 by the inventor in Sawston,  
Cambridge, Great Britain from seed that originated from  
unintroduced *Helichrysum* hybrids. Seedlings were grown  
out during the spring of 1995 and were selected for vegeta-  
tive propagation based on a more compact plant habit and  
finer, denser, more vivid-colored foliage than other known  
cultivars of this type. The inventors breeding program is  
designed to enhance the foliage color of *Helichrysum* from  
the normal gray or dull green to brighter silver and pearl  
colors.

'Prospi' is distinguished by a more compact plant habit,  
finer foliage, and a dense foliage of vivid green and silver  
color. These combined characteristics distinguish 'Prospi'  
from all others that exist. In comparison, the only similar  
plant is *Helichrysum 'Prosil'*, with a habit that is more dense  
and compact, exhibiting foliage that is silver rather than  
green and silver. The standard non-patented varieties of  
*Helichrysum angustifolium* have untidy foliage, dull and  
greener foliage, broader foliage and regular significant flow-  
ering. Compared to these 'Prospi' has tidy foliage, finer and  
brighter foliage of a silver/green color and insignificant  
yellow flowers when compared to those of standard variet-  
ies. Although 'Prospi' has reportedly flowered rarely in the  
UK the plant has flowered profusely in California during the  
second year in a 7-gallon container, but the flowers them-  
selves are insignificant, and subsequent flowering has not  
yet been observed, but may be possible. Foliage and habit  
remain its most distinguishing features. The *Helichrysum*

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*angustifolium* cultivar 'Dartington' (not patented) is com-  
pact but has darker foliage that is not fine-leaved. The new  
cultivar 'Prospi' was first asexually propagated in 1996 by  
the inventor in Rivenhall, Essex, Great Britain. Since the  
inventor's initial selection, the new variety has been repeat-  
edly asexually reproduced by means of cuttings and has  
been found to remain firmly fixed in subsequent generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar *Helichrysum*  
'Prospi'. These attributes in combination distinguish this  
cultivar from all other varieties. Although 'Prospi' has a  
similar form and habit to 'Prosil', 'Prospi' is more open in  
habit and has a unique foliage color, that of silver and green.  
Compared to standard varieties such as *Helichrysum*  
*angustifolium*, the new variety 'Prospi' is more compact,  
tidier with finer foliage of a silver and green color and  
insignificant flowers that may only rarely flower.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
overall appearance of the new cultivar.

Sheet 1 has two photos showing the entire plant and habit  
with blooms, from a front perspective.

Sheet 2 shows the foliage and habit of the entire plant,  
without blooms.

Sheet 3 compares 'Prospi' on the right, with 'Prosil' on the  
left illustrating the difference in habit and foliage color. All  
photographs are taken of plants grown in seven-gallon  
containers. The prints are made using conventional photo-  
graphic techniques and although foliage colors in photo-  
graphs may appear different from actual colors due to light  
reflectance, they are as accurate as possible by conventional  
photography.

**BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT**

The following is a detailed botanical description of the  
new *Helichrysum* cultivar 'Prospi'. Observations,  
measurements, values, and comparisons were collected in  
Encinitas, Calif. from 2 year old plants grown outdoors  
under prevailing conditions in seven-gallon containers.

The new *Helichrysum* plant has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary with variations in environment such as temperature and light level, without, however, any variance in genotype. Color references are made to The 1995 Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species and no growing problems have been observed.

Botanical classification: *Helichrysum* 'Prospi'.

Common name: Licorice plant.

Parentage: A hybrid of *Helichrysum xambiguum*.

Propagation: Vegetative cuttings.

Rooting habit and time to develop: 3 weeks to root from cutting; 12 to 16 weeks to reach one-gallon size.

Plant form and growth habit: Compact, mounded

Type: Biennial/perennial sub-shrub.

Vigor: Vigorous.

Growth rate: Moderate, grows to 23.0 cm height in 22 weeks. Branching habit: Ascending, arching.

Hardiness: Zero degrees Centigrade.

Mature height and spread: 50 cm by 90 cm.

Stem color: 194D.

Stem shape: Cylindrical.

Stem length: 20 cm.

Stem diameter: 0.25 cm.

Internode length: 1 cm.

Stem surface: Tomentose.

Foliage:

*Leaf arrangement*.—Alternate.

*Shape*.—Linear.

*Leaf length*.—4.5 cm to 6 cm.

*Leaf width*.—4 mm.

*Margin type*.—Entire.

*Leaf base*: *Sheathing*, cobweb-like surface at inside juncture.

*Leaf tip*.—Acute.

*Leaf division*.—Simple.

*Surface*.—Tomentose.

*Upper leaf color (mature)*.—148A and 191A.

*Lower leaf color (mature)*.—148C and 194A.

*Upper leaf color (young)*.—148B.

*Lower leaf color (young)*.—148D.

*Petiole*.—None, semi-amplexicaul.

*Foliar fragrance*.—Slight spicy clove to anise scent.

Flower:

*Flowering season*.—Spring and summer.

*Inflorescence type*.—Flat umbel-like head, 30 to 40 flowers per umbel.

*Umbel dimensions*.—3.50 cm in diameter, 1.50 cm in height.

*Flower color (opening)*.—7D.

*Flower color (open)*.—13A.

*Fragrance*.—Licorice scented.

*Flower size*.—50 cm in diameter, 0.50 cm in height.

*Flower shape*.—Circular.

*Aspect*.—Erect, facing upward.

*Petals*.—Numerous, shape ovate, apex obtuse.

*Involucral bracts*.—Hairy, dry, color: yellow-white.

*Inner bracts*.—5.0 mm in length.

*Outer bracts*.—1.25 mm in length.

*Fruit*.—Angled, slightly compressed, hairless capsule.

*Seed*.—Dark brown with white glands.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Helichrysum xambiguum* plant named 'Prospi' as described and illustrated.

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