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Larsen

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED 'SUNNY WILLIAM'**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database 2002/02, GTI
Jouve Retrieval Software, Citation for 'pbr -001619'.*

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./360**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./360**

A distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunny
William', characterized by its upright plant habit; freely
branching growth habit; freely flowering habit; and white-
colored spoon-shaped ray florets.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1 Drawing Sheet

PP10,341 P * 4/1998 Larsen Plt./360

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR
DESIGNATION**

Osteospermum ecklonis cultivar Sunny William.

temperature, daylength and light intensity without, however,
any variance in genotype.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct culti-
var of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as
Osteospermum ecklonis, and hereinafter referred to by the
name 'Sunny William'.

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

1. Upright plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. White-colored spoon-shaped ray florets.

The new *Osteospermum* is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Odense, Denmark.
The objective of the breeding program is to create new
Osteospermum cultivars with attractive ray and disc floret
colors.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are most similar to
plants of the female parent, the cultivar Sunny Sonya. Plants
of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar Sunny Sonya
differ primarily in ray floret color. Plants of the new
Osteospermum differ from plants of the male parent prima-
rily in ray floret shape.

The new *Osteospermum* originated from a cross-
pollination made by the Inventor in May, 1997 of the
Osteospermum ecklonis cultivar Sunny Sonya, disclosed in
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,341, as the female, or seed, parent
with a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* iden-
tified as code number 1.47.93, not patented, as the male, or
pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within
the progeny of the stated cross grown in a controlled
environment in Odense, Denmark in June, 2000.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the
overall appearance of the new *Osteospermu* showing the
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may
differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Osteospermum. The photograph comprises a side perspec-
tive view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunny William'.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by ter-
minal vegetative cuttings was first conducted in Odense,
Denmark in June, 2000. Asexual reproduction by cuttings
has shown that the unique features of this new *Osteosper-
mum* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observa-
tions and measurements describe plants grown in Odense,
Denmark, in a glass-covered greenhouse during the late
spring and early summer with day and night temperatures
averaging 20° C. and light levels about 5,000 lux. After
planting rooted cuttings, plants were grown for about 13 to
14 weeks in 12-cm containers with one plant per container.
Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Soci-

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Sunny William has not been observed under
all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may
vary somewhat with variations in environment such as

ety Colour Chart, 1995 edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Sunny William.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Sunny Sonya, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,341.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 1.47.93, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate rooting.—About 10 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots.—About 21 days at 20° C.

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

Plant description:

Appearance.—Perennial herbaceous container and garden plant. Upright and outwardly spreading plant habit. Freely branching, at least five lateral branches develop after pinching; dense and full plants. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 40 cm.

Plant width or area of spread.—About 60 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 35 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 1.5 cm. Aspect: Upright to outward. Strength: Strong, but flexible. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 143C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate; simple. Length: About 8 cm. Width: About 3.2 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Slightly sinuate with three to five pointed lobes. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Texture, upper surface: Slightly pubescent. Texture, lower surface: Glabrous. Fragrance: Strong, typical of species. Color: Young and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Close to 147A; venation, close to 147A. Young and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Between 146A and 147B; venation, between 146A and 147B. Petiole: Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color, upper surface: Close to 147A. Color, lower surface: Between 146A and 147B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Terminal and axillary inflorescences held above and beyond the foliage on moderately strong peduncles. Composite inflorescence form, radially symmetrical; ray and disc florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences face upright or outward.

Flowering response.—Plants flower continuous and freely from the spring through the fall.

Postproduction longevity.—Inflorescences maintain good color and substance for about one week on the plant.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering; at one time, about five open inflorescences and inflorescence buds per lateral stem.

Fragrance.—Slight, typical of species.

Inflorescence bud (at stage of showing color).—

Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color, ray florets, lower or outer surface: Close to 155D.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.3 cm.

Ray florets.—Length: About 2.5 cm. Width, towards apex and base: About 5 mm. Width, mid-section: About 1 mm. Shape: Narrow linear; mid-section curled upright giving a spoon-shaped appearance to the ray floret. Apex: Obtuse to acute. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, satiny. Orientation: Initially upright then about 70° from vertical. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 20 in a single whorl. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 155D. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 106C; towards the margins, 92B.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular, elongated. Apex: Five-pointed. Length: About 7 mm. Width: At apex: About 2.5 mm. At base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: More than 50. Color, immature and mature: Close to 96B.

Phyllaries.—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Shape: Narrowly lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Coarse, pubescent. Number per inflorescence: About 20 in a single whorl. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 9 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Rough, slightly pubescent. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen number: Five per floret; fused around style. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 12A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 23A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil number: One per floret. Pistil length: About 7.5 mm. Stigma shape: Two-parted. Stigma color: Close to 83A. Style length: About 5 mm. Style color: Close to 84C. Ovary color: Close to 145A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and/or fruit production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermums* has not been observed on plants grown under commercial greenhouse or outdoor conditions.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures from 1 to more than 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunny William', as illustrated and described.

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