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Smith

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

(75) **Inventor: Mark A. Smith, Fort Myers, FL (US)**

(73) **Assignee: Yoder Brothers Inc., Barberton, OH
(US)**

(*) **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
Assistant Examiner—Annette H. Para
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant named
‘Yohelga’, characterized by its upright, mounded and
rounded plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and full
plants; uniform and freely flowering habit; decorative-type
inflorescences; white-colored ray florets; and early
flowering, natural season flowering in mid-September in the
Northern Hemisphere.

1 Drawing Sheet

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**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR
DESIGNATION**

Chrysanthemum×*morifolium* cultivar Yohelga.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Chrysanthemum plant, botanically known as
Chrysanthemum×*morifolium*, commercially known as a
garden-type Chrysanthemum and hereinafter referred to by
the name ‘Yohelga’.

The new cultivar 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 garden-type Chrysanthemum cultivars having inflores-
cences with desirable inflorescence forms, attractive floret
colors and good garden performance.

The new Chrysanthemum originated from a cross made in
December, 1999, in Salinas, Calif., of the Chrysanthemum
cultivar Yogretchen, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent appli-
cation filed concurrently, as the female, or seed, parent with
a proprietary Chrysanthemum selection identified as code
number 93-L591002, not patented, as the male, or pollen,
parent. The new Chrysanthemum 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 Alva, Fla. in November, 2000. The selection
of this plant was based on its desirable inflorescence form,
attractive ray floret color and good garden performance.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal
cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Alva, Fla. since
January, 2001, 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 Yohelga 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 ‘Yohelga’.

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These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Yohelga’
as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Upright, mounded and rounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit; dense and full plants.
3. Uniform and freely flowering habit.
4. Decorative-type inflorescences.
5. White-colored ray florets.
6. Early flowering; natural season flowering in mid-
September in the Northern Hemisphere.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla.,
plants of the new Chrysanthemum differed from plants of the
female parent, the cultivar Yogretchen, in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum had slightly larger
inflorescences than plants of the cultivar Yogretchen.
2. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum flowered about five
days later than plants of the cultivar Yogretchen when grown
under natural season conditions.

3. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum and the cultivar
Yogretchen differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the
cultivar Yogretchen had golden yellow-colored ray florets.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla.,
plants of the new Chrysanthemum differed from plants of the
male parent, the selection 93-L284001, in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum were larger than
plants of the selection 93-L284001.
2. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum had larger inflores-
cences than plants of the selection 93-L284001.
3. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum and the selection
93-L284001 differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the
selection 93-L284001 had yellow-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum can be compared to
plants of the cultivar Tartino, not patented. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla., plants of the new
Chrysanthemum differed from plants of the cultivar Tartino
in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum were slightly larger
than plants of the cultivar Tartino.
2. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum had larger inflores-
cences than of plants of the cultivar Tartino.

3. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum and the cultivar Tartino differed in ray floret color as plants of the cultivar Tartino had yellow-colored ray florets.

4. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum flowered about ten days earlier than plants of the cultivar Tartino when grown under natural season conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new Chrysanthemum. These photographs show the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of 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 at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Yohelga'.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical inflorescences of the cultivar 'Yohelga'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The following observations and measurements describe plants grown in a fiberglass-covered greenhouse in Alva, Fla. under practices which approximate those generally used in commercial garden-type Chrysanthemum production. One cutting was directly stuck in a 15.25-cm container in November, 2001, and exposed to long day/short night conditions. Plants were pinched once about five weeks after sticking. About one week after the pinch, the photoinductive short day/long night treatments were started. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged about 27° C. and night temperatures averaged about 21° C. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants.

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

Commercial classification: Decorative-type garden Chrysanthemum.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Yogretchen, disclosed in a U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 10/099,272 filed concurrently.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* identified as code number 93-L284001, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal tip cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About four days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About ten to twelve days at 21° C.

Root description.—White, fine and fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Perennial herbaceous decorative-type garden Chrysanthemum. Inverted triangle. Stems initially upright, then somewhat outwardly spreading giving a uniformly mounded to rounded appearance to the plant. Freely branching with about five lateral branches forming after the pinch.

Plant height.—About 19.5 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 29 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 16 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Internode length: About 9 mm. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Foliage description.—Leaf arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 5.4 cm. Width: About 4.25 cm. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Attenuate with truncate tendencies. Margin: Palmately lobed, sinuses parallel to divergent. Texture: Both surfaces, pubescent; veins prominent on lower surface. Color: Young and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A. Young and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B. Venation, upper surface: 147A. Venation, lower surface: 147B. Petiole length: About 2.1 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole color: Upper surface: 147A. Lower surface: 147B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Decorative-type inflorescence form with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences borne on terminals above foliage, arising from leaf axils. Disk and ray florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum. About nine inflorescences per lateral.

Flowering response.—Early flowering; under natural season conditions, plants flower in mid-September in the Northern Hemisphere and continue to flower for at least three weeks depending on weather conditions.

Inflorescence bud (before showing color).—Height: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Oblate. Phyllary color: 146A to 147A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.25 cm. Depth (height): About 2.3 cm. Disc diameter: About 5.5 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 5 mm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 2.6 cm. Corolla tube length: About 3 mm. Width: About 5.5 mm. Apex: Emarginate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous, satiny. Surface: Mostly flat. Orientation: Initially upright, then about 60° from vertical. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 121. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 155D. Opened inflorescence, upper and lower surfaces: 155D.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular, apex dentate. Length: About 5.5 mm. Width: Apex: About 1.5 mm. Base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: Less than 20. Color: Immature: 9A. Mature: Apex: 9A. Mid-section: 144B. Base: 155D.

Phyllaries.—Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Ligulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Upper surface, smooth and waxy; lower surface, pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A. Color, lower surface: 146A to 147A.

Peduncle.—Aspect: Flexible, angled about 45° from vertical. Length: First peduncle: About 4 cm. Fourth peduncle: About 5.4 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther color: 9A. Pollen: None observed. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Stigma color: 9A.

Seed.—Seed production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new Chrysanthemum have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Chrysanthemums.

Garden performance: Plants of the new Chrysanthemum have been observed to be tolerant to rain, wind and temperatures ranging from 0 to higher than 40° C.

It is claimed:

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

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