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Smith

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum plant named ‘Yonatasha’, characterized by its upright, mounded and rounded plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and full plants; uniform and freely flowering habit; daisy-type inflorescences; light purple-colored ray florets; bright yellow-colored disc 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 Yonatasha.

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 ‘Yonatasha’.

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 inflorescences with desirable inflorescence forms, attractive floret colors and good garden performance.

The new Chrysanthemum originated from a cross made in October, 1999, in Salinas, Calif., of the Chrysanthemum cultivar Alcala, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,211, as the female, or seed, parent with the Chrysanthemum cultivar Stephanie, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,445, 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 October, 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 Yonatasha 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.

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The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Yonatasha’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Yonatasha’ as a new and distinct cultivar:

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

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

20 1. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum were smaller than plants of the cultivar Alcala.
2. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum flowered more uniformly than plants of the cultivar Alcala.

25 3. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum had larger inflorescences than plants of the cultivar Alcala.
4. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum flowered about four weeks earlier than plants of the cultivar Alcala when grown under natural season conditions.

30 5. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum and the cultivar Alcala differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the cultivar Alcala had darker purple-colored ray florets.

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

40 1. Plant habit of plants of the new Chrysanthemum was more uniform than plant habit of plants of the cultivar Stephanie.
2. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum were larger than plants of the cultivar Stephanie.

3. Ray florets of the new Chrysanthemum and the cultivar Stephanie differed in ray floret color as plants of the cultivar Stephanie had white-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum differ from plants of the cultivar Yocamille, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently, primarily in ray floret coloration. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum differ from plants of the cultivar Yocecilia, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently, primarily in ray floret coloration. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum differ from plants of the cultivar Yojeanette, disclosed in a U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently, primarily in ray floret coloration.

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

1. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum had larger inflorescences than plants of the cultivar Italia.
2. Ray florets of the new Chrysanthemum were darker in color than ray florets of the cultivar Italia.
3. Plants of the new Chrysanthemum flowered about two to three weeks earlier than plants of the cultivar Italia 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 'Yonatasha'.

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

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 Yonatasha.

Commercial classification: Daisy-type garden Chrysanthemum.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Alcala, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,211.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Stephanie, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,445.

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 daisy-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 eight lateral branches forming after the pinch.

Plant height.—About 17 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 29 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 14 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Aspect: Mostly upright and outwardly spreading. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Foliage description.—Leaf arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 4.9 cm. Width: About 3.9 cm. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Palmately lobed, sinuses mostly parallel. Texture: Both surfaces, pubescent; veins prominent on lower surface. Color: Young foliage upper surface: Darker than 147A. Young foliage, lower surface: Darker than 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Darker than 147B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 147B. Petiole length: About 1.8 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces: 147B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-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 15 inflorescences per lateral.

Flowering response.—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 5.5 mm. Shape: Oblate. Phyllary color: 146A to 147A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.1 cm, large. Depth (height): About 1 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.1 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 3 mm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 2.5 cm. Corolla tube length: About 2 mm. Width: About 5 mm. Apex: Emarginate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous, satiny. Surface: Initially longitudinally concave to mostly flat. Orientation: Initially upright, then perpendicular to the peduncle. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 29 in one row. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 79B to 187A. Opened inflorescence, upper surface: 155D overlain with 61A. Overall tonality, close to 186A. Opened inflorescence, lower surface: 155D underlain with 61A.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular, apex dentate. Length: About 5 mm. Width: Apex: About 1.5 mm. Base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 65. Color: Immature: 9A. Mature: Apex: 9A. Mid-section: 144C. Base: 155D.

Phyllaries.—Length: About 5 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ligulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Upper surface, smooth and waxy; lower surface, pubescent. Color, upper surface: 146A. Color, lower surface: 146A to 147A.

Peduncle.—Aspect: Flexible, angled about 40° from vertical. Length: First peduncle: About 3.75 cm. Fourth peduncle: About 4.1 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther color: 15A. Pollen: Moderate.

Pollen color: 15A. 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 'Yonatasha', as illustrated and described.

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