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Anderson et al.

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(54) **CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED 'MN98-E90-15'**

(50) Latin Name: *Dendranthema×hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **MN98-E90-15**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./294**
(58) **Field of Search** Plt./294, 297

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct Chrysanthemum plant named MN98-E90-15 is provided. This new cultivar was the result of a cross between *Dendranthema weyrichii* and *Dendranthema×grandiflora.*

5 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species of plant claimed: *Dendranthema×hybrida.*

Variety denomination: MN98-E90-15.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinctive chrysanthemum plant, hereinafter referred to by the cultivar

name MN98-E90-15. This new cultivar was the result of a cross in 1989 between *Dendranthema weyrichii* and *Dendranthema×grandiflora*. More specifically, the breeding program which resulted in the production of the new cultivar was carried out at St. Paul, Minn. The female or seed parent of MN98-E90-15 was *Dendranthema weyrichii* 'Pink Bomb', commercially available from White Flower Farms, Connecticut having the following characteristics: (a) the plant habit is prostrate and the plant spreads via rhizomes to form a large mat after the first year; (b) the plant dimensions are that the plant has a diameter of about 1.5' and is about 5–6" tall; (c) the plant is hardy in zones 4–9 (Southeast)/ Zone 10 (west); (d) the flower of the plant is a single daisy, having light lavender-colored ray florets and central disc florets with yellow pollen; (e) the plant has leaves that are dark green in color, with a very shiny leaf surface (glossy), and glabrous leaf margins that are deeply incised; and (f) the plant tends to rosette, needs cold treatment to flower consistently, flowering can be sporadic with gaps in the plant architecture and the plant is an obligate short-day plant. The male or pollen parent of MN98-E90-15 was a *Dendranthema×grandiflora* which is commercially available from Yoder Brothers, Inc., Barberton, Ohio having the following characteristics: (a) the plant habit is cushion; (b) the plant dimensions are that the plant is similar to other cushion types commercially available from Yoder Brothers, Inc., such as, but not limited to the variety, 'Soft Cherie'; (c) the plant is hardy in zones 6–9 (Southeast)/Zone 10 (west); (d) the flower is a single or duplex daisy, possibly orange or bronze ray florets, central disc florets with yellow pollen; (e) the plant has leaves that are similar to other Yoder Brothers, Inc. cushion series chrysanthemums; and (f) the plant is a facultative short-day plant. The resulting seed, identified as 90-287-145 was collected. In 1991, a plant of 90-287-145 was selfed, and the resulting seed, identified as 92-396-20, collected. In 1994, a plant of 92-396-20 was crossed as the male plant with plants identified as 90-275-27, a University of Minnesota variety, as the female parent, and the resulting seeds, identified as 95-331-6, collected. In 1997, plants of 95-331-6 were selfed or open-pollinated and the resulting seeds, identified as MN98-E90-15, selected. The parentage of the new cultivar can be summarized as follows:

Dendranthema weyrichii×[*Dendranthema×grandiflora*].

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal or stem cuttings taken 1993 through 2000 at St. Paul, Minn., U.S.A. has demonstrated that the characteristics of the new cultivar as herein described are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

It was found that the cultivar of the present invention:

(a) exhibits extreme hybrid vigor;

(b) develops, in its second and subsequent years after planting, when grown in the fall under natural day-length and without the application of growth regulators, into a flowering herbaceous shrub having a plant height of from about 2.5 to about 4.0 feet and a spread from about 3.0 to about 6.0 feet;

(c) exhibits, in its second and subsequent years after planting and during the fall season (August–October), a massive floral display;

(d) displays flowers which are slightly toned with grey, giving the flower petals a slightly altered coloration;

(d) exhibits superior winter hardiness, including frost tolerance; and

(e) exhibits self-pinching.

The MN98-E90-15 cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length.

When the new cultivar of the present invention is compared to 'Soft Lynn' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,898), it is found to exhibit a more spreading and prolific habit accompanied with a massive floral display in its second and subsequent years after planting. Reference is made to Table A below which compares certain characteristics of MN98-E90-15 to 'Soft Lynn'.

TABLE A

CHARACTERISTIC	MN98-E90-15	'Soft Lynn'
Plant shape	cushion (mounded, spherical)	cushion
Plant height (1st year)	1.5'	1.5'
(2nd year)	2.5–4'	-(dead)
Flowering response		
# weeks short days (SD)	6.5	7.0
Flower Tpe	Daisy	Decorative
Flower Diameter	7.8 cm	7–8 cm
Ray florets, color, mature		
Adaxial surface	RHS Red Purple Group 69B	RHS Red Purple Group 69C
Abaxial surface	RHS Red Purple Group 69D	RHS Red Purple Group 69D

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. The plants were grown in a greenhouse at St. Paul, Minn., USA.

FIG. **1** shows an adaxial and abaxial view of the leaf shape of chrysanthemum variety 'MN98-E90-15'.

FIG. **2** shows the breeding history of chrysanthemum variety 'MN98-E90-15'.

FIG. **3** is a color photograph of chrysanthemum variety 'MN98-E90-15' after one year of growth.

FIG. **4** is a color photograph of chrysanthemum variety 'MN98-E90-15' after two years of growth.

FIG. **5** is a color photograph of a close-up of the flowers of chrysanthemum variety 'MN98-E90-15' after two years of growth.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (1995 Edition). The color values were determined on Feb. 7, 2001 in St. Paul, Minn. The readings were taken between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. under approximately 2500 footcandles of light. The plants were produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and were grown under greenhouse conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice while utilizing a soilless growth medium and maintaining temperatures of approximately 72° F. during the day and approximately 65° F. during the night.

Propagation:

Type.—Herbaceous stem cutting.

Time to rooting.—About 1 week.

Rooting habit.—Vigorous.

Plant description:

Appearance, shape.—Mounded, spherical(first year). Mounded, spherical (second year).

Appearance, growth habit.—Mound.

Appearance, growth rate/vigor.—Vigorous.

Plant height.—About 19 inches (first year) about 2.5–4 feet (second year) (estimated).

Lateral branch length.—5 to 17 inches.

Quantity of lateral branches after removal of apical meristem.—One per node.

Stem color.—RHS Yellow Green Group 148A.

Foliage description:

Number of leaves per plant.—Greater than 3,000 (second year).

Number of leaves per lateral branch.—5 to 19.

Leaf arrangement.—Alternate.

Leaf size, fully expanded, length.—10.5 cm.

Leaf size, fully expanded width.—6.0 cm.

Leaf apex.—Apiculate.

Leaf base.—Auriculate.

Leaf margin.—Incised (Mulberry-like incisions).

Leaf texture.—Glaucous.

Petiole length.—3.0 cm.

Color, young foliage adaxial surface.—RHS Yellow Green Group 148B.

Color, fully expanded foliage adaxial surface.—RHS Green Group 139A.

Color, fully expanded foliage abaxial surface.—RHS Yellow Green Group 147A.

Color, venation adaxial surface.—RHS Yellow Green Group 147B.

Color, venation abaxial surface.—RHS Yellow Green Group 147A.

Color, petiole.—RHS Yellow Green Group 147B.

Phyllary description:

Appearance.—The involucral bracts (phyllaries) are crenulate with entire margins.

Color.—RHS Green Group 139C.

Texture.—Glabrous.

Size.—Approximately 0.2–0.4 cm in length.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Head (composite).

Flowering response.—About 6.5 weeks (SD).

Quantity of inflorescences.—Greater than 3,500 (second year).

Inflorescence size, diameter.—7.8 cm.

Inflorescence size, depth (height).—1.3 cm.

Inflorescence size, diameter of disc.—1.8 cm.

Opening inflorescences, bud shape.—Conical.

Opening inflorescences, bud size, length.—2.4 cm.

Opening inflorescences, bud size, width.—1.5 cm.

Opening inflorescences, bud color.—RHS Red Group 37B.

Ray florets, shape.—Lanceolate.

Ray florets, size, length.—3.7 cm.

Ray florets, size, width.—0.9 cm.

Ray florets, apex.—Slightly dentate.

Ray florets, base.—Attenuate.

Ray florets, margin.—Entire.

Ray florets, texture.—Glabrous.

Ray florets, aspect.—Horizontal to slightly reflexed.

Number of ray florets per inflorescence.—About 21.

Ray florets, color, when opening, adaxial surface.—RHS Red Purple Group 62C.

Ray florets, color, when opening, abaxial surface.—RHS Red Group 38C.

Ray florets, color, mature, adaxial surface.—RHS Red Purple Group 69B.

Ray florets, color, mature, abaxial surface.—RHS Red Purple Group 69D.

Ray florets, color, fading to.—RHS Red Purple Group 69C.

Disc florets, shape.—Tubular, rounded at tip.

Disc florets, size, length.—0.8 cm.

Disc florets, size, width.—0.2 cm.

Number of disc florets per inflorescence.—About 231.

Disc florets, color, immature.—RHS Yellow Group 153A.

Disc florets, color, mature.—RHS Yellow Orange Group 17C.

Peduncle, aspect, strength.—Stiff.

Peduncle, aspect, angle to stem.—45°.

Peduncle, length, first peduncle.—10.3 cm.

Peduncle, length, fourth peduncle.—11 cm.

Peduncle, texture.—Pubescent.

Peduncle, color.—RHS Green Group 137A.

Reproductive organs, androecium, floret location.—Disc florets.

Anther color.—RHS Yellow Orange Group 14B.

Pollen, abundance.—Very abundant.

Pollen, color.—RHS Yellow Orange Group 16A.

Reproductive organs, gynoecium, floret location.—Disc/ray florets.

Style color.—RHS Yellow Green Group 151C.

Stamen description.—Stamens are located within each individual disk floret. Each stamen is borne on a filament that, when mature (dehiscent with pollen shedding longitudinally along the long axis of the anther), places the stamens above the stigma (i.e., the top portion of the pistil.).

Pistil number.—Each ray floret possesses one pistil (there are approximately 60 per inflorescence). Likewise, each disk floret also possesses a pistil (there are approximately 191 per inflorescence). Therefore, the total number of pistils/inflorescence is 251 (60+191). The size of the pistil (length) is approximately 1 cm.

Disease resistance.—None Known as MN98-E90-15 has not been tested for any diseases.

Seed production and fruit.—About 252 ovules/flower. The fruit is an achene, a dry, indehiscent fruit with a single locule and a single seed, and with the seed attached to the ovary wall at a single point. The achene does not have any pappus of awns for bristles; its general shape is a half-inflated football oval with pointed ends. Seed size is about 0.2–0.5 cm in length and about 0.1–0.2 cm in width. The surface texture is ridged. The color designation for the seed is RHS Brown Group 200D.

Fragrance.—Fragrance is noticeable when handling or bruising the foliage.

Longevity of the bloom.—Flower longevity is temperature dependent. Under normal conditions in the field, during the fall season, flowers will typically last about 2–4 plus weeks.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct chrysanthemum plant as herein described and illustrated.

* * * * *

FIGURE 1

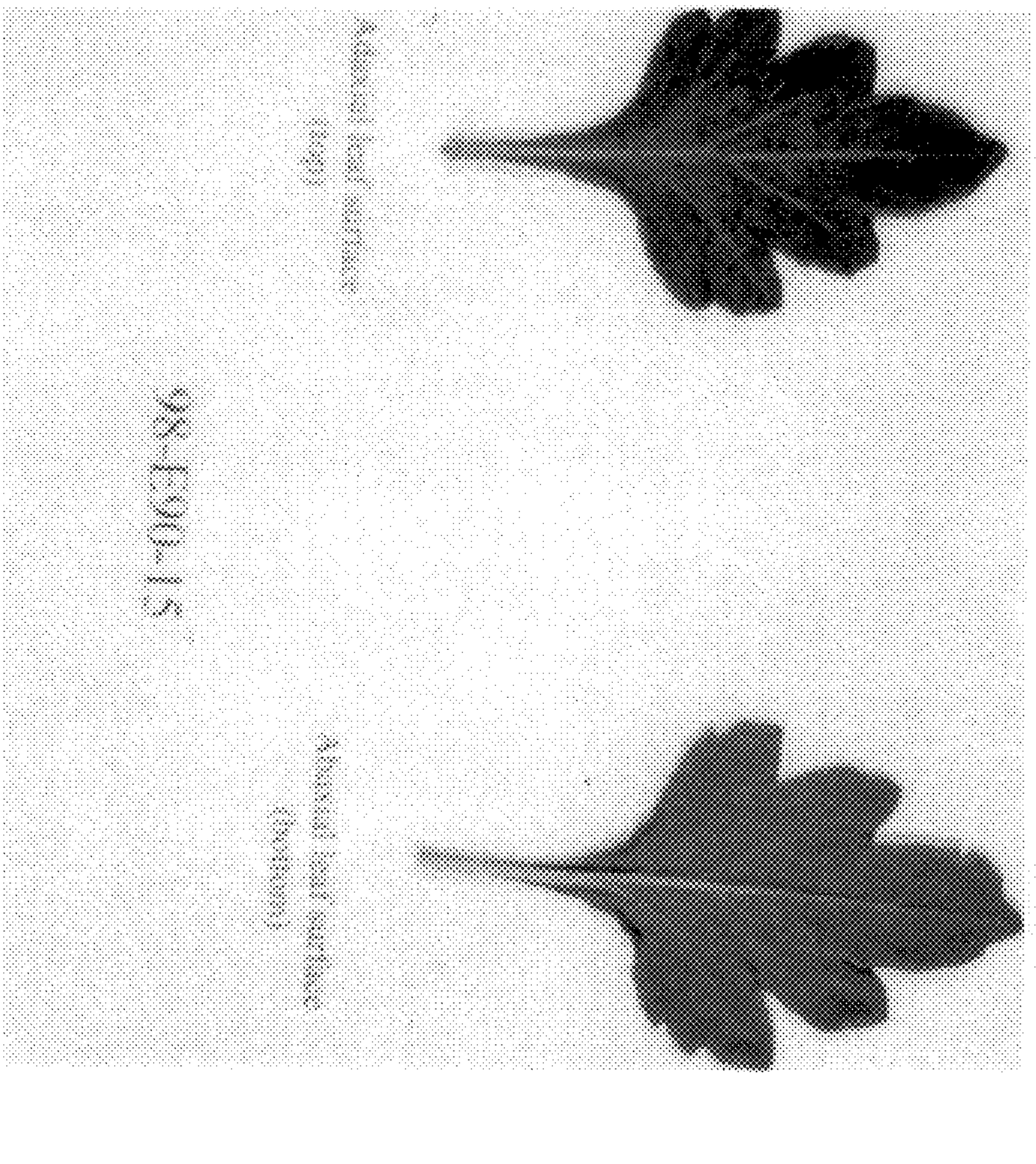

FIGURE 2

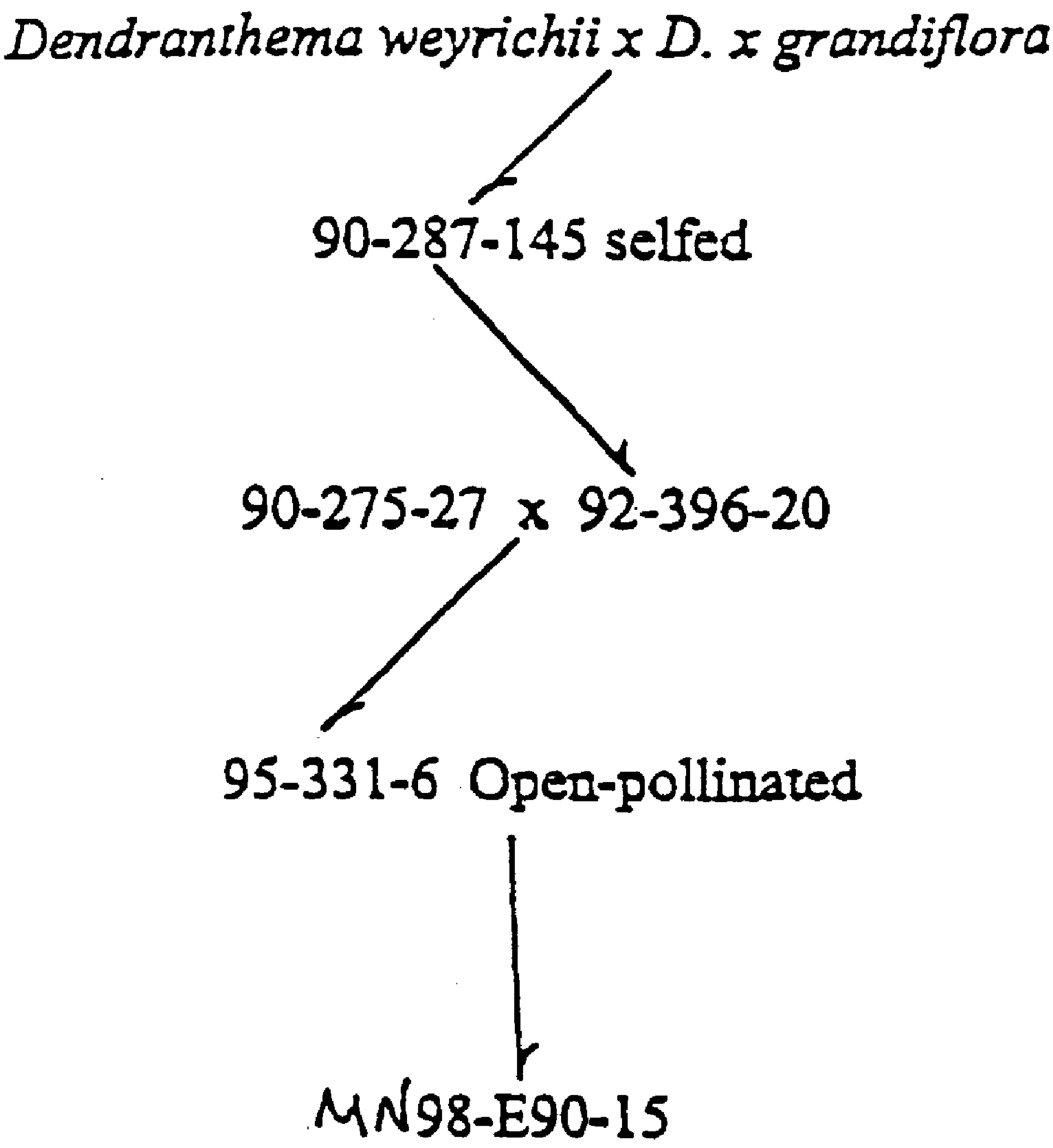
Dendranthema weyrichii x D. x grandiflora
90-287-145 selfed
90-275-27 x 92-396-20
95-331-6 Open-pollinated
MN98-E90-15

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5