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

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(54) **AERVA JAVANICA PLANT NAMED ‘DESERT YEARNING’**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./226**

(50) Latin Name: *Aerva javanica*
Varietal Denomination: **Desert Yearning**

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

(75) Inventor: **Yitzhak Yannai**, Moshav Hazeva
(Arava Tichona) (IL), 86815

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Royal Botanic gardens Kew. 1993.*

(73) Assignee: **Yitzhak Yannai** (IL)

* cited by examiner

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 86 days.

Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell

Assistant Examiner—Annette H. Para

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon
Orkin & Hanson, P.C.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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A new and distinct *Aerva javanica* plant with a tall stem and
light grey-green leaves suitable for cut flower production.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A01H 5/00**

3 Drawing Sheets

1

2

Classification: *Aerva javanica*.
Varietal denomination: ‘Desert Yearning’.

tions from the vegetative cuttings have confirmed that the
distinguishing features of the new variety remain stable and
are retained through successive propagations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-
tivar of *Aerva javanica* known by the varietal name ‘Desert
Yearning’. A variety was discovered in the wild in the Arava
Valley, Israel at 100 m below sea level. Seed from the wild
variety were collected, germinated and grown to maturity in
a cultivated area. The new variety was selected from a
population of *Aerva javanica* plants as having the following
desirable characteristics:

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the
new variety, with the color being as nearly true as is possible
with color illustrations of this type:

1. Hardy and firm stem.
2. Stem length of at least 80 cm.
3. Convenient plant shape for harvesting.
4. Stable flower color.
5. Long shelf life of cut flowers.
6. Attractive, unsymmetrical flowering.

- FIG. 1 illustrates multiple plants of the new variety;
- FIG. 2 is a close-up view of the inflorescences of the new
variety; and
- FIG. 3 is a close-up view of the foliage of the new variety.

The new variety differs from its native female population
(unpatented) as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

1. ‘Desert Yearning’ has an average plant height of
1.5–1.8 m, whereas the native female population has an
average plant height of 0.3–1.2 m.
2. ‘Desert Yearning’ has an average inflorescence length
of 0.2–0.35 m, whereas the native female population
has and average inflorescence length of 0.1–0.2 m.
3. ‘Desert Yearning’ blooms year round, whereas the
native female population blooms only in spring and
summer.

The following detailed description sets forth the charac-
teristics of the new variety. The data which defines these
characteristics were collected by asexual reproductions by
cuttings carried out in Hatzeva, Israel. Plants for the descrip-
tion were 2-years old. The new variety is an ornamental
perennial shrub and grows well in sandy soils, open fields,
or a greenhouse. Color references are primarily to The
R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of
London.

The new variety is similar to its native female population
in leaf size and shape and flower shape and structure.

Plant:
Height: 1.5–1.8 m.
Width: 1.2 m.
Form: Erect.
Growth: Vigorous; fast growth rate.
Stem surface: Smooth texture, dull appearance.
Branches:

No male parentage or similar cultivars to ‘Desert Yearning’
are known.

Branching.—Basal.
Surface texture.—Smooth; pubescent; no prickles.
New growth color.—196A.
Mature growth color.—196A.
Length.—Up to 1 mm.

The new variety was first asexually reproduced by cut-
tings in June 1997 in Hatzeva, Israel. Continued observa-

Internode length.—60–70 mm.

Cross-section.—3 mm in diameter; solid.

Flowering stem:

Length.—1.2 m.

Texture.—Smooth.

Diameter.—4–6 mm.

Internode length.—60–80 mm.

Color.—196C.

Foliage:

Arrangement.—Opposite.

Length.—60–70 mm.

Width.—8–15 mm.

Surface texture.—Soft.

Shape.—Overall: Narrow; elliptical. Apex: Acute.

Base: Acute. Cross section: Concave.

Margin.—Entire; undulating.

Stipules.—None.

Color.—Upper surface (young and mature): Green Group 138B. Lower surface (young and mature): Green Group 138C. Veins (upper and lower surface): Grey-green.

Petioles.—Length: 2–3 mm. Diameter: 1 mm. Color: Green Group 138D. Surface texture: Heavy pubescence.

Flowering: Naturally and continuously flowers in December — June in Israel. Numerous, small inflorescences colored White Group 157B. No fragrance. Year long flowering is achieved by growing the plant in a greenhouse covered

with plastic (0.12 cm thick) with artificial daylight for 18 hours.

Reproductive organs:

Anthers.—Too small for observation.

Pollen.—Plentiful.

Pistils.—3 pistils 1 mm in length.

Style.—Length: 1 mm. Color: 177C.

Fruit:

Shaped.—Round.

Texture.—Solid.

Size.—1 mm.

Growing conditions:

Winter irrigation.—3–4 m³ water with fertilizer per 1000 m² growing area per day.

Summer irrigation.—5–6 m³ water with fertilizer per 1000 m² growing area per day.

Fertilizer.—150 ppm of 7-3-7.

Cold tolerance.—Below 8° C. inflorescences change color to brown.

Drought tolerance.—Strong; 'Desert Yearning' can last months without water; grows well even at temperatures of 40° C.

Insect susceptibility.—Sensitive to white fly.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Aerva javanica* plant substantially as shown and described.

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Fig. 1

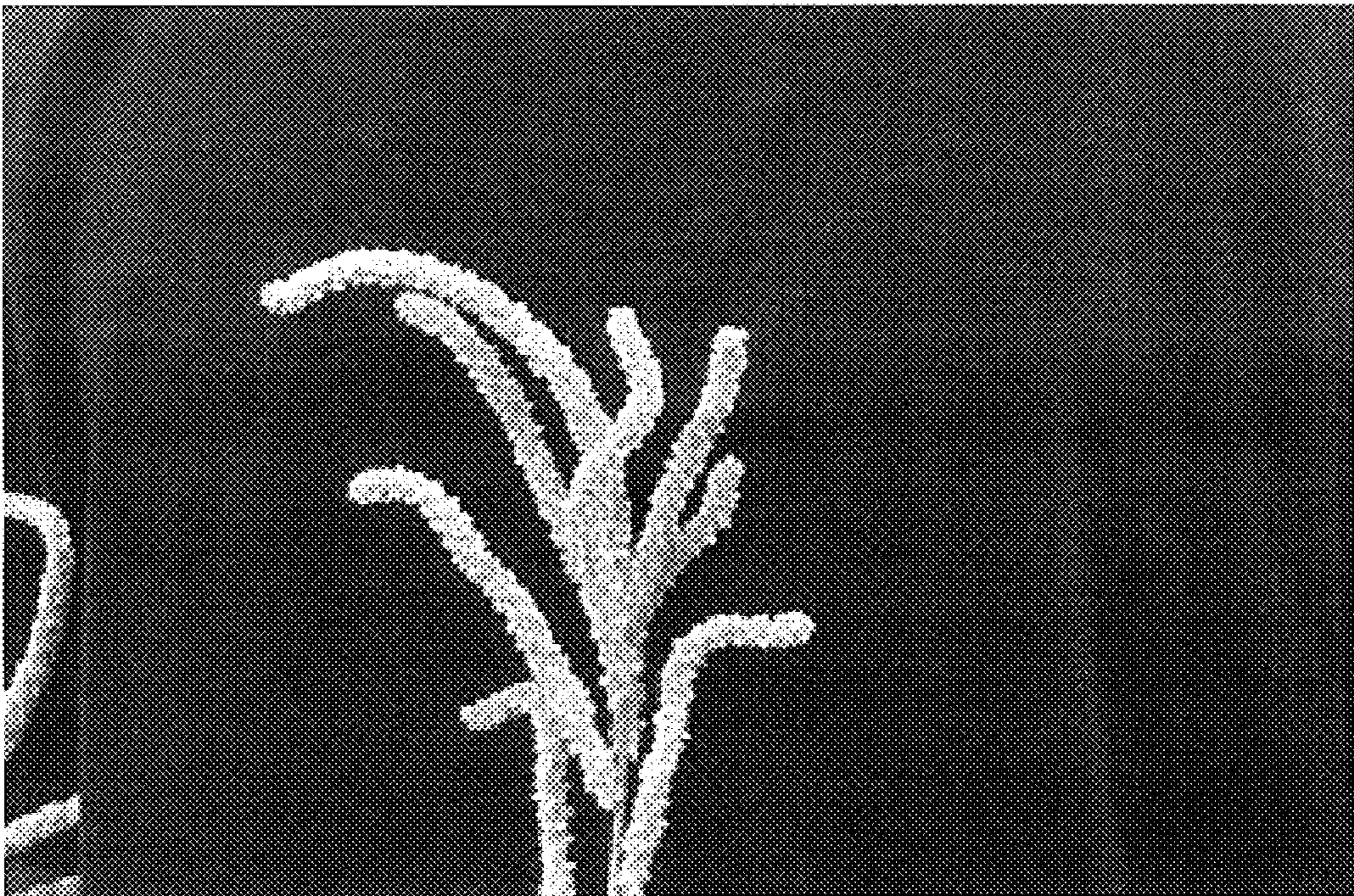


Fig. 2



Fig. 3