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Brown

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(54) **ARGYRANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED**
'SUPALIFE'

(50) Latin Name: *Argyranthemum frutescens*
Varietal Denomination: **Supalife**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./263**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Argyranthemum* plant named
'Supalife', characterized by its compact, mounded, upright
and outwardly spreading plant habit; freely branching habit,
dense and bushy plants; freely flowering habit with numer-
ous inflorescences per plant; double-type inflorescence form
with white-colored ray florets.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical classification/cultivar denomination: *Argyranthemum frutescens* cultivar Supalife.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Argyranthemum* plant, botanically known as *Argyranthe-*
mum frutescens and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name 'Supalife'.

The new *Argyranthemum* is a product of a planned
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Cobbitty,
New South Wales, Australia. The objective of the program
is to create and develop new compact *Argyranthemum*
cultivars with numerous inflorescences, interesting inflores-
cence form, and attractive ray floret coloration.

The new *Argyranthemum* originated from a cross-
pollination by the Inventor in the spring of 2000, of a
proprietary selection of *Argyranthemum frutescens* identi-
fied as X99.1.1, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent,
with a proprietary selection of *Argyranthemum frutescens*
identified as X99.1.3, not patented, as the male, or pollen,
parent. The new *Argyranthemum* was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a plant within the progeny of the
stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in
Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia in September, 2001.
The selection of the new *Argyranthemum* was based on its
attractive inflorescence form and ray floret coloration.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Argyranthemum* by
terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in
Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia since September,
2001, has shown that the unique features of this new
Argyranthemum are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Argyranthemum* has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture and light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of

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'Supalife' and distinguish the new *Argyranthemum* as a new
and distinct cultivar:

1. Compact, mounded, upright and outwardly spreading
plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit, dense and bushy plants.
3. Freely flowering habit with numerous inflorescences
per plant.
4. Double inflorescence form with white-colored ray
florets.

Plants of the new *Argyranthemum* differ from plants of the
female parent selection in inflorescence form and ray floret
coloration as plants of the female parent selection have
anemone-type inflorescences with pink-colored ray florets.
In addition, plants of the new *Argyranthemum* are more
compact than plants of the female parent selection. Plants of
the new *Argyranthemum* differ primarily from plants of the
male parent selection in inflorescence form as plants of the
male parent selection have daisy-type inflorescences.

Plants of the new *Argyranthemum* can be compared to
plants of the cultivar Supagem, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 13,826. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in
Cobbitty, New South Wales, Australia, plants of the new
Argyranthemum differed from plants of the cultivar Supa-
gem in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Argyranthemum* were more compact
than plants of the cultivar Supagem.
2. Inflorescences of plant of the new *Argyranthemum*
were more uniform than inflorescences of plants of the
cultivar Supagem.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
duction 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
Argyranthemum.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Supalife'
grown in a one-gallon container.

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

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs, following observations and averaged measurements describe plants grown in Encinitas, Calif., in an outdoor nursery under full sunlight during winter and spring with day temperatures about 15° C. and night temperatures about 10° C. Plants were grown for about 16 weeks when the photographs and description were taken. Plants were pinched one time about five weeks after planting. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Argyranthemum frutescens* cultivar Supalife.

Parentage:

Female or seed parent.—Proprietary selection of *Argyranthemum frutescens* identified as X99.1.1, not patented.

Male or pollen parent.—Proprietary selection of *Argyranthemum frutescens* identified as X99.1.3, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

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

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About three weeks at 20° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fine; white in color.

Rooting description.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Inverted triangle; compact, mounded, upright and outwardly spreading plant form with dense foliage and inflorescences held above and beyond the foliage. Vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 32 cm.

Plant width.—About 46 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity per plant: About nine primary lateral branches; each with about seven secondary lateral branches. Length: About 28 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: Vegetative stems, about 1 cm; flowering stems, about 1 cm. Aspect: Upright and outwardly spreading. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 145B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 6.5 cm. Width: About 3.4 cm. Shape: Pinnatifid, deeply and finely incised. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire; deeply and finely incised; sinuses parallel. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Petiole length: About 1.5 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 147A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Darker than 147B. Venation, upper surface: 147A. Venation, lower surface: 147B. Petiole, upper and lower surfaces: 147C.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Double-type inflorescence form with ligulate ray florets. Disc and ray florets develop acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences held

upright and outwardly on terminal and axillary peduncles. Inflorescences positioned perpendicular to the peduncles. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

Flowering response.—Under natural conditions, plants flower from spring to early fall in Southern California; plants flower continuous during this period.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last about ten days on the plant.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering, about 20 buds and open inflorescences per lateral branch.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 3.4 cm. Depth (height): About 1.8 cm. Diameter of disc: About 2 cm. Receptacle height: About 7 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 1.8 cm.

Inflorescence buds, at stage of showing color.—Height: About 8 mm. Diameter: About 7 mm. Shape: Roughly ovoid. Color: 157A.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 150 arranged in numerous whorls. Shape: Ligulate. Length: About 1.7 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Apex: Emarginate or rounded. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, satiny. Aspect: Initially upright; when mature, about 90° from vertical; slightly reflexing with development. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 155B. When opening, lower surface: Close to 155A. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 155D.

Disc florets.—Arrangement: Massed at the center of the inflorescence. Quantity per inflorescence: About two to five. Shape: Tubular; apex, five-pointed; base, fused. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter, apex: About 1.5 mm. Diameter, base: Less than 1 mm. Color: Apex: 158A. Mid-section and base: 144D.

Involucral bracts (phyllaries).—Appearance: Scale-like; margins, papery. Quantity per inflorescence: About 24. Length: About 2 mm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 147B.

Peduncle.—Strength: Moderately strong; wiry. Aspect: Upright to about 45° from vertical. Length, terminal inflorescence: About 8.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Quantity per floret: Five. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: 10A. Amount of pollen: None observed. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. Quantity per floret: One. Pistil length: About 7 mm. Stigma shape: Two-parted. Stigma color: 10A. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: 157A. Ovary color: 145C. Seed/fruit: Seed and fruit production has not been observed.

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

Temperature/weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Argyranthemum* have been observed to be tolerant to rain, wind and to temperatures from -1 to 30° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Argyranthemum* plant named 'Supalife', as illustrated and described.

