

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP15,510 P2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 1, 2005**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium*  
Varietal Denomination: **Sercia**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 24 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/783,351**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 21, 2004**

(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./294**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./294**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum* plant named  
‘Sercia’, characterized by its upright and rounded growth  
habit; freely branching growth habit; uniform and freely  
flowering habit; daisy-type inflorescences without white-  
colored ray florets and yellow-colored disc florets; and  
excellent garden performance.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical classification/cultivar designation: *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Sercia.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Chrysanthemum* plant, botanically known as  
*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* and referred to by the name  
‘Sercia’.

The new *Chrysanthemum* is the product of a planned  
breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Staden-  
Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium. The objective of the breeding  
program is to develop new garden *Chrysanthemums* with a  
flowering date of mid-September, unique inflorescence  
forms, attractive ray and disc coloration and good resistance  
to wind and rain.

The new *Chrysanthemum* originated from a cross-  
pollination made by the Inventor in September, 1998, in  
Staden-Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium, of a proprietary selection  
of *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* identified as NR 631, not  
patented, as the female, or seed, parent with the  
*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Papiro, disclosed in  
U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,998, as the male, or pollen, parent.  
The new *Chrysanthemum* was discovered and selected by  
the Inventor as a single plant within the progeny of the stated  
cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Staden-  
Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Chrysanthemum* by  
terminal cuttings in Staden-Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium has  
shown that the unique features of this new *Chrysanthemum*  
are stable and reproduced true to type in successive genera-  
tions.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The cultivar Sercia 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 ‘Sercia’.

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

1. Upright and rounded growth habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Uniform and freely flowering habit.
4. Daisy-type inflorescences with white-colored ray florets and yellow-colored disc florets.
5. Excellent garden performance.

Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differ from plants of  
the female parent selection primarily in ray floret coloration.

Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* can be compared to  
plants of the male parent, the cultivar Papiro. In side-by-side  
comparisons conducted in Staden-Oostnieuwkerke,  
Belgium, plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differed from  
plants of the cultivar Papiro in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* were more rounded  
than plants of the cultivar Papiro.
2. Natural flowering date for plants of the new *Chrysanthemum*  
was about 25 days earlier than natural flow-  
ering date for plants of the cultivar Papiro.
3. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* had larger inflores-  
cences than plants of the cultivar Papiro.

Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* can also be compared  
to plants of the cultivar Milos, not patented. In side-by-side  
comparisons conducted in Staden-Oostnieuwkerke,  
Belgium, plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differed from  
plants of the cultivar Milos in the following characteristics:

1. Natural flowering date for plants of the new *Chrysanthemum*  
was about 20 days earlier than natural flow-  
ering date for plants of the cultivar Milos.
2. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Chrysanthemum*  
had more ray florets than inflorescences of plants of the  
cultivar Milos.

**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-  
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ



slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Chrysanthemum*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sercia'.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of the lower and upper surfaces of typical inflorescences (top) and typical leaves (bottom) of 'Sercia'.

#### 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 aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the summer and fall in Staden-Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium, under commercial practice in an outdoor nursery. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 19° C. and night temperatures averaged 13° C. Plants were pinched about two weeks after planting. Plants were about four months from planting into 19-cm containers when the photographs and the description were taken.

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

Commercial classification: Garden *Chrysanthemum*.

Parentage:

*Female or seed parent*.—Proprietary selection of *Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* identified as NR 631, not patented.

*Male or pollen parent*.—*Chrysanthemum*×*morifolium* cultivar Papiro, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 12,998.

Propagation:

*Type*.—Terminal tip cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer*.—About 10 days at 25° C.

*Time to initiate roots, winter*.—About 12 days at 20° C.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer*.—About 14 days at 25° C.

*Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter*.—About 21 days at 20° C.

*Root description*.—Fibrous, thick and freely branching; white in color.

Plant description:

*Appearance*.—Herbaceous potted *Chrysanthemum* typically grown as a spray type. Stems upright and outwardly spreading; rounded plant habit. Freely branching with lateral branches potentially developing at every node; dense and full plants. Vigorous growth habit.

*Plant height*.—About 35 cm.

*Plant width*.—About 60 cm.

*Lateral branches*.—Length: About 27 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 148B.

*Foliage description*.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Length: About 5 to 7 cm. Width: About 2 to 4 cm. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Acute. Margin: Palmately lobed. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, leathery. Color: Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; venation, 148C. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 147C. Petiole length: About 2 cm. Petiole diameter: About 1 mm. Petiole color: 147B.

Inflorescence description:

*Appearance*.—Daisy-type composite inflorescences with ray and disc florets developing acropetally on a receptacle. Inflorescences borne on terminals and lateral branches above foliage. Slightly fragrant. Typically grown as a spray-type.

*Flowering response*.—Under natural conditions, plants flower in mid-September in Northern Europe.

*Postproduction longevity*.—Inflorescences maintain good color and substance for about four weeks in an interior environment.

*Quantity of inflorescences*.—Freely flowering, about six inflorescences develop per lateral stem; uniform inflorescence development.

*Inflorescence bud*.—Height: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 146D.

*Inflorescence size*.—Diameter: About 4.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1.7 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.1 cm.

*Ray florets*.—Shape: Elliptic. Orientation: Initially upright; with development, roughly perpendicular to the peduncle. Length: About 2.5 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate; short corolla tube. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 70. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: 155D. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: 155D.

*Disc florets*.—Arrangement: Massed at center of receptacle. Shape: Tubular. Apex: Five-pointed. Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 100. Color: Immature: 145C. Mature: 12A.

*Peduncles*.—Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Angle: Mostly erect. Strength: Flexible. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color: 148B.

*Reproductive organs*.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets.

*Seed/fruit*.—Seed and fruit production has not been observed.

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

Weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* have been observed to be very resistant to wind, rain and temperatures ranging from about -3 to 35° C.

It is claimed:

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

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