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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'KAKEGAWA AU16'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum hybrid***
Varietal Denomination: **Kakegawa AU16**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./360**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

'Kakegawa AU16' is a new *Osteospermum* cultivar particularly distinguished by its non-fading purple inflorescence color, basal branching and compact growth habit.

**1 Drawing Sheet**



Genus and species: *Osteospermum* hybrid.
Variety denomination: 'Kakegawa AU16'.

## BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The variety 'Kakegawa AU16' originated from a gene pool population made in Misato, Japan. In May 1999, three *Osteospermum* varieties were intercrossed and $F_1$ seed from this cross was bulked to make the population. The three varieties used in the intercross were 'Purple Passion' (unpatented), an unnamed *Osteospermum* breeding line of unknown origin with day-neutral blooming, and an unnamed *Osteospermum* line with purple inflorescences.

In April 2000, $F_1$ seed was sown in the greenhouse. Plants were later transplanted outdoors for evaluation in Misato, Japan. Criteria for selection included compact growth habit, basal branching, non-fading inflorescence color, heavy flowering and day-neutral blooming. In August 2000, one single-plant selection was made based on the above criteria and vegetatively propagated by rooted cuttings in Misato, Japan. The selection subsequently was named 'Kakegawa AU16' and found to reproduce true to type in successive generations of asexual propagation.

## DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

This new *Osteospermum* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show blooms and foliage of the plant in full color. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

FIG. **1** shows overall plant habit.

FIG. **2** shows the mature inflorescence.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of 'Kakegawa AU16'. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Salinas, Calif. Data were collected on plants grown about four months from transplanting rooted cuttings into 16 cm diameter pots, one plant per pot, under greenhouse conditions. Color references are to The



R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.).

## DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Classification:
*Family*.—Compositae.
*Species*.—*Osteospermum* sp. cultivar 'Kakegawa AU16'.
Parentage:
*Male*.—Unknown *Osteospermum* breeding line.
*Female*.—Unknown *Osteospermum* breeding line.
*Plant description:*
*Form*.—Highly branching.
*Habit*.—Mounding.
*Height*.—45 cm as measured from soil level to top of plant.
*Width*.—60 cm.
*Life cycle*.—Perennial.
Propagation:
*Type cuttings*.—Vegetative cuttings.
*Time to produce a rooted cutting*.—About 4 weeks.
*Time to bloom from propagation*.—About four weeks after transferring a rooted vegetative cutting to a 16 cm diameter pot. Flowering season is all year in the United States. Vernalization is not required to induce flowering.
Environmental conditions for plant growth: The base of each cutting was dipped for one to two seconds in a 1:9 solution of DIP 'N GROW root-inducing solution immediately prior to placing the cutting into a cell tray. The cell tray contained a moistened peat moss-based growing medium. The cuttings were misted with water from overhead hourly until sufficient roots were formed. Rooted cuttings were transplanted and grown individually in 16 cm diameter plastic pots in a glass greenhouse located in Salinas, Calif. Pots contained a peat moss-based growing medium. Soluble fertilizer containing 18% nitrogen, 8% phosphorus and 18% potassium was applied. The soil was allowed to dry between waterings. During the first few weeks after transplanting, the plants were grown under evening temperatures around 15–18° C. for good root growth. When plants reached 7.5–10 cm in height they

were pinched back to 5–6 leaves to promote branching. Spring and summer daytime high temperatures in Salinas, Calif. range from 16–25° C.

Stems:

*Texture*.—Slightly pubescent.
*Pubescence color*.—RHS 155A (white).
*Pubescence shape*.—Linear.
*Stem description*.—Ancipital (round) in cross-section.
*Stem color*.—RHS 141D (green).
*Stem diameter*.—0.5–0.6 cm at base.
*Internode length*.—2.0–3.0 cm.

Leaves:

*Leaf arrangement*.—Alternate.
*Leaf shape*.—Oblanceolate.
*Leaf apex*.—Mucronate.
*Leaf base*.—Decurrent.
*Leaf margin*.—Serrate.
*Leaf venation*.—Pinnate.
*Leaf texture, both surfaces*.—Dull, smooth.
*Leaf surface pubescence*.—Slight.
*Leaf length*.—4.5–6.0 cm.
*Leaf width*.—1.7–2.2 cm.
*Leaf thickness*.—0.1 cm.
*Leaf color*.—Upper surface: RHS 137B (green). Lower surface: RHS 137C (green).
*Venation color*.—Upper surface: RHS 144B (yellow-green). Lower surface: RHS 144B (yellow-green).
*Petiole*.—Length: 4.9–5.6 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Color: RHS 144A (yellow-green).

Inflorescence:

*Inflorescence type*.—Capitulum (head); disc florets are perfect and ray florets are carpellate.
*Inflorescence diameter*.—6.0–7.0 cm.
*Inflorescence depth*.—2.5–3.5 cm.
*Flowering habit*.—Determinate.
*Lastingness of inflorescences*.—3–4 days on the plant.
*Fragrance*.—None.
*Disc diameter*.—1.0–1.2 cm.
*Disc floret number*.—85–90.
*Phyllaries*.—About 21 in a single whorl per inflorescence, free, arranged symmetrically.
*Phyllary length*.—0.9–1.2 cm.
*Phyllary width*.—0.1 cm.
*Phyllary apex*.—Acute.
*Phyllary margin*.—Entire.
*Phyllary shape*.—Lanceolate.
*Phyllary color*.—Upper surface: RHS 143A (green). Lower surface: RHS 143B (green).
*Peduncle length*.—6.0–7.0 cm.
*Peduncle diameter*.—0.2–0.3 cm.
*Peduncle color*.—RHS 143C (green).
*Peduncle texture*.—Dull, slight pubescence.

Ray florets:

*Corolla*.—One ray per ray floret; only the outer row of florets is the ray florets.
*Ray floret length*.—2.1–2.2 cm.
*Ray floret width*.—0.6 cm.
*Ray floret shape*.—Spatulate.
*Ray floret apex*.—Acute.
*Ray floret margin*.—Entire.
*Ray floret color*.—Upper surface: RHS 78B (purple) with RHS 79B (purple) outer stripes and RHS 78D (purple) inner stripes. Lower surface: RHS 76C (purple) with RHS 77C (purple) and RHS 79C (purple) stripes.
*Ray floret texture*.—Glabrous.
*Ray floret ovary*.—Superior.
*Ray floret pistil form*.—One style with two stigma branches.
*Ray floret pistil length*.—0.3 cm.
*Ray floret stigma color*.—RHS 77A (purple).
*Ray floret style color*.—RHS 155A (white).

Disc florets:

*Disc floret color*.—Upper surface: RHS N77A (purple). Lower surface: RHS N77A (purple).
*Disc floret shape*.—Ensiform.
*Disc floret apex*.—Acute.
*Disc floret base*.—Cuneate.
*Disc floret surface texture*.—Dull, pubescent.
*Disc floret margin*.—Entire.
*Disc floret size*.—Length: 0.3 cm. Width: 0.1 cm.
*Disc floret ovary*.—Superior.
*Disc floret pistil form*.—One style with two stigma branches.
*Disc floret style color*.—RHS 155A (white).
*Disc floret stigma color*.—RHS 103B (blue).
*Location of gynoecium*.—Ray florets and disc florets.
*Disc floret stamens*.—5, fused into a single tube.
*Disc floret anther color*.—RHS 103B (blue).
*Disc floret pollen color*.—RHS 17A (orange).
*Location of androecium*.—Disc florets.

## DISEASE AND INSECT RESISTANCE

'Kakegawa AU16' is very disease resistant but is susceptible to aphids, thrips, whiteflies and worms.

## COMPARISON WITH KNOWN CULTIVARS

'Kakegawa AU16' a distinct variety of *Osteospermum* owing to its non-fading purple inflorescence color, basal branching and compact growth habit. 'Kakegawa AU16' is most similar to the variety 'Wildside' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,603) however, there are differences as described in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

| Characteristic | 'Kakegawa AU16' | 'Wildside' |
|---|---|---|
| Ray floret color, upper surface | RHS 78B (purple) with RHS 79B (purple) outer stripes and RHS 78D (purple) inner stripes | RHS 71A (red-purple); color fades as inflorescence ages |
| Growth habit | Compact | Broad |
| Basal branching | Present | None |

I claim:

**1**. A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant as shown and described herein.

* * * * *

Fig. 1

Fig. 2