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Smith

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(54) ***CHRYSANTHEMUM* PLANT NAMED 'LOVELY YOCHERYL'**

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

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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 0 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum* plant named 'Lovely Yocheryl', characterized by its compact, upright and mounded plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and full plants; uniform and freely flowering habit; medium-sized decorative-type inflorescences with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets; coral pink-colored ray florets; and natural season flowering in early October in the Northern Hemisphere.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Chrysanthemum×morifolium.*
Cultivar denomination: 'Lovely Yocheryl'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Chrysanthemum* plant, botanically known as *Chrysanthemum×morifolium*, commercially known as a garden-type *Chrysanthemum* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Lovely Yocheryl'.

The new cultivar is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Alva, Fla. The objective of the breeding program is to create new garden-type *Chrysanthemum* cultivars having inflorescences with desirable inflorescence forms, attractive floret colors and good garden performance.

The new *Chrysanthemum* is a naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Chrysanthemum×morifolium* cultivar Regal Yocheryl, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,974. The new *Chrysanthemum* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within a population of plants of the cultivar Regal Yocheryl in a controlled environment in Alva, Fla. in April, 2003. The selection of this plant was based on its desirable inflorescence form, attractive ray floret color and good garden performance.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal vegetative cuttings in a controlled environment in Alva, Fla. since June, 2003, has shown that the unique features of this new *Chrysanthemum* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Lovely Yocheryl 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 'Lovely

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Yocheryl'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Lovely Yocheryl' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit; dense and full plants.
3. Uniform and freely flowering habit.
4. Medium-sized decorative-type inflorescences with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets.
5. Coral pink-colored ray florets.
6. Natural season flowering in early October in the Northern Hemisphere.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla., plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differed from plants of the parent, the cultivar Regal Yocheryl, primarily in ray floret coloration as plants of the cultivar Regal Yocheryl had purple-colored ray florets. In addition, plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* flowered about one to three days earlier than plants of the cultivar Regal Yocheryl when grown under natural season conditions.

Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* can be compared to plants of the *Chrysanthemum* cultivar Yopam, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,844. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla., plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differed from plants of the cultivar Yopam in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* were smaller but more mounded than plants of the cultivar Yopam.
2. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* flowered more uniformly than plants of the cultivar Yopam.
3. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* had smaller inflorescences than plants of the cultivar Yopam.
4. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* and the cultivar Yopam differed in ray floret coloration as plants of the cultivar Yopam had slightly darker-colored ray florets.
5. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* flowered about four days later than plants of the cultivar Yopam when grown under natural season conditions.

Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* can also be compared to plants of the *Chrysanthemum* cultivar Amor Coral, dis-

closed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,067. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Alva, Fla., plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* differed from plants of the cultivar Amor Coral in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* were more durable than and not as brittle as than plants of the cultivar Amor Coral.
2. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* had smaller inflorescences than plants of the cultivar Amor Coral.
3. Ray florets of plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* were more coral/less lavender in color than ray florets of plants of the cultivar Amor Coral.
4. Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* flowered about ten days later than plants of the cultivar Amor Coral when grown under warm-climate natural season conditions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Chrysanthemum*. These photographs show the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions 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 *Chrysanthemum*.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Lovely Yocheryl' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet comprises a close-up view of typical inflorescences of the cultivar 'Lovely Yocheryl'.

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 following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Leamington, Ontario, Canada during the summer in a glass-covered greenhouse and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial garden-type *Chrysanthemum* production. Rooted cuttings were planted in 15.25-cm containers, grown under artificial long day conditions (four-hour night interruption) and pinched about ten days later. About ten days after the pinch, plants were then exposed to artificial short day conditions (11.5 hours light) until flowering. During the production of the plants, temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 38° C. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants.

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum×morifolium* cultivar Lovely Yocheryl.

Commercial classification: Decorative-type garden *Chrysanthemum.*

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Chrysanthemum×morifolium* cultivar Regal Yocheryl, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 13,974.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About four days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About ten to twelve days at 21° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Perennial herbaceous decorative-type garden *Chrysanthemum.* Inverted triangle with mounded crown. Stems initially upright, then outwardly spreading; compact and mounded growth habit. Freely branching with about seven primary branches. Moderately vigorous.

Plant height.—About 11.5 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 21 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 7.5 mm. Aspect: Upright and outwardly spreading. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Foliage description.—Leaf arrangement: Alternate. Length: About 4.6 cm. Width: About 3.2 cm. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Truncate with attenuate tendencies. Margin: Palmately lobed, sinuses mostly divergent. Texture, upper surface: Pubescent. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent; veins prominent. Color: Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Darker green than 147A. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Darker green than 147B. Venation, upper surface: More green than 147A. Venation, lower surface: Close to 147B. Petiole length: About 1.3 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2.5 mm. Petiole color, upper surface: Close to 147A. Petiole color, lower surface: Close to 146A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Decorative-type inflorescence form with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences borne on terminals above foliage, arising from leaf axils. Ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum. About nine inflorescences per lateral branch.

Flowering response.—Under natural season conditions, plants flower in early October in the Northern Hemisphere.

Inflorescence bud (*before showing color*).—Height: About 4 mm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Oblate. Color (lower surface of phyllaries): Close to 146A to more green than 147A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 3 cm. Depth (height): About 1.3 cm. Disc diameter: About 3.5 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 5 mm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated oblong-shaped. Length: About 1.4 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Corolla tube length: About 3 mm. Corolla tube diameter: About 1 mm. Apex: Mostly emarginate. Margin: Fused. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Orientation: Initially upright, then eventually perpendicular to the peduncle. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 152 in numerous whorls. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 155D overlain with close to 64A; color becoming lighter coral pink with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 155D underlain with close to 64A; color becoming closer to 155D with development.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular, elongated. Length: About 3 mm. Width, apex: About 1 mm. Width, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 36. Color: Immature: Close to 9A. Mature: Apex: Close to 9A. Mid-section: Close to 154D. Base: Close to 155D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 22. Length: About 6 mm. Width: About 2.5 mm. Shape: Ligulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin:

Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, waxy. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A. Color, lower surface: Close to 146A to more green than 147A.

Peduncle.—Length: First peduncle: About 2.7 cm. Fourth peduncle: About 3.4 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: About 45° from vertical. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther length: Less than 1 mm. Anther color: Close to 12A. Amount of pollen: None observed. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: Close to 154A. Stigma color: Close to 9A.

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

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* have not been shown to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Chrysanthemums*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Chrysanthemum* have been observed to be tolerant to rain, wind and temperatures ranging from 0° C. to more than 38° C.

It is claimed:

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

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