



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

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'BALSERIMWHI'

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **Balserimwhi**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named
'Balserimwhi', characterized by its white-colored flowers,
medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous and
upright-mounded, vase-like growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed:
Osteospermum ecklonis.
Variety denomination: 'Balserimwhi'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Osteospermum* plant botanically known as *Osteosper-*
mum ecklonis and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name 'Balserimwhi'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Santa Paula, Calif. during April 2003. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
Osteospermum cultivars that are freely flowering with
unique flower coloration and a freely branching, compact,
and upright growth habit.

The new *Osteospermum* cultivar is the result of cross-
pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is
the proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breeding selection
designated 33056-2, not patented, characterized by its white-
colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and upright
growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is
the proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breeding selection
designated 33056-1, not patented, characterized by its white-
colored flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and upright
growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected
as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above
stated cross-pollination during December 2003 in a con-
trolled environment at Santa Paula, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since December 2003 at Santa Paula, Calif., Arroyo
Grande, Calif., and West Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that
the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the
characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained
through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
'Balserimwhi' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteosper-*
mum plant:

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1. White-colored flowers;
2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Moderately vigorous and upright-mounded, vase-like
growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in growth habit and from plants of the male
parent primarily in growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Osteospermum* cul-
tivars known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison
to the new cultivar is Serenity™ White 'Balserwhit', U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 16,334. However, in side by side
comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of
'Balserwhit' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar are taller than plants of
'Balserwhit'; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a flower color different
from plants of 'Balserwhit'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the
new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from
the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describes the colors of 'Balserimwhi'. The plants
were grown in 4.5 inch pots for 11 weeks in a greenhouse at
West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of 'Balserimwhi'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual inflo-
rescence of 'Balserimwhi'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticul-

tural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined on Jun. 9, 2006 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 4.5 inch pots for 11 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Balserimwhi.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breeding selection designated 33056-2, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breeding selection designated 33056-1, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 9 to 12 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 28 to 32 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant Description:

Crop time.—Approximately 10 to 13 weeks from a rooted cutting.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, upright-rounded, vase-like.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 22.2 cm. Width: Approximately 25.2 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 5.

Branch.—Strength: Strong. Length: Approximately 18.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.9 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 5.6 mm. Texture: Glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of young and mature stems: 144B.

Foliage Description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 25. Fragrance: Pungent. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem becoming an obtuse angle with age. Shape: Spatulate. Margin: Widely dentate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 4.9 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 2.1 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Densely pubescent on margin and glandular pubescent on surface. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: 137A with venation of 145C. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: 138B with venation of 144D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 1.4 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.5 mm. Texture: Mixture of glandular and non-glandular pubescence. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 145C.

Flowering Description:

Flowering habit.—‘Balserimwhi’ is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year-round in greenhouse environment.

Lastingness of individual inflorescence on the plant.—Approximately 8 to 10 days.

Inflorescence Description:

General description.—Type: Solitary, composite. Persistent. Shape: Round. Aspect: Facing upward. Arrangement: Terminal, held above the foliage, arising from leaf axils. Disc and ray florets develop acropetally on a capitulum. Fragrance: Pungent. Quantity per plant: Approximately 3. Diameter: Approximately 6.9 cm. Depth: Approximately 2.0 cm.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 8.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 137C.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 4 to 6 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Quantity per plant: Approximately 4.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: Approximately 1.6 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.2 cm. Color: 154D.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 23. Arrangement: Imbricate in a single whorl. Aspect: Initially at acute angle to disc, becoming perpendicular at maturity and downward turning as senesce. Shape: Oblanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Emarginate with three tips. Base: Attenuate. Length: Approximately 3.5 cm. Width: Approximately 8.5 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Glabrous with densely pubescent base. Color of upper surface when first and fully open: Purer white than 155D with base of 86B. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: N187D with ribs of N77C.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 80. Arrangement: Massed in center of inflorescence. Shape: Tubular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Five acute tips. Base: Attenuate, fused. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 2.0 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Pubescent. Color when fully open: N92C at tips fading to N77D toward base.

Disc.—Diameter: Approximately 1.2 cm. Depth: Approximately 4.0 mm.

Receptacle.—Shape: Conical. Height: Approximately 2.3 mm. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 mm. Color: 154D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 22. Arrangement: In a single whorl. Shape: Linear to lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of upper or inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower or outer surface: Glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper or inner surface: 138B. Color of lower or outer surface: 138A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen quantity: 5 per flower, fused around the style. Stamen length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 177A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 17B. Gynoecium: Present on

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ray and disc florets. Pistil quantity: 1 per floret. Pistil length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Stigma shape: Two-parted. Stigma length: Less than 1 mm. Stigma color: N92C. Style length: Approximately 6.0 mm. Style color: N92C at apex fading to 155C toward base. Ovary diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Ovary color: 150D.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

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Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Osteospermum* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Balserimwhi', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG 1



FIG. 2