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Schmulling

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(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED ‘DEL COM WH’**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./360
See application file for complete search history.

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **DEL COM WH**

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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* cited by examiner

(*) 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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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 30, 2007**

A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant cultivar is disclosed,
characterized by small daisy type inflorescences, freely
flowering, compact growth habit, pure white inflorescences
with a dark purple and violet underside and a dark blue
center, and a high heat tolerance.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

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

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Variety denomination: ‘DEL COM WH’.

has an earlier natural flowering season. Additionally, ‘DEL
COM WH’ has a longer internode length and a longer inflo-
rescence longevity. Also, ‘DEL COM WH’ has a smaller
inflorescence diameter and more ray and disc florets per
inflorescence. Finally, the disc florets of ‘DEL COM WH’
are a much darker blue.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The new cultivar ‘DEL COM WH’ is a product of open
pollination in a heterogeneous population of *Osteospermum*
mass selection in 2004. The new cultivar was discovered and
selected by Markus Schmulling in June 2005 in Billerbeck,
Germany.

The accompanying photograph illustrates in full color a
typical plant of ‘DEL COM WH’ grown in an outdoor gar-
den. The growing temperature ranged from 12° C. to 15° C.
at night to 12° C. to 20° C. during the day. The colors are as
nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation
of this type.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘DEL COM
WH’ by cuttings from adventitious shoots was performed in
Oxnard, Calif., and has shown that the unique features of this
new cultivar are stable and reproduced true to type on suc-
cessive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar ‘DEL COM WH’ 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.

In the following description, color references are made to
The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where
general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.
The following observations and measurements describe
‘DEL COM WH’ plants grown in Oxnard, Ventura County,
Calif., during the months of January through June in an out-
door garden. The growing temperature ranged from 12° C. to
15° C. at night to 12° C. to 20° C. during the day. Measure-
ments and numerical values represent averages of typical
flowering types.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘DEL
COM WH’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘DEL COM WH’ as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* culti-
var:

1. Small daisy type inflorescence;
2. Freely flowering, compact growth habit;
3. Pure white inflorescences with a dark purple and violet
underside and a dark blue center; and
4. High heat tolerance.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar
‘DEL COM WH’.
Commercial classification: Garden-type *Osteospermum*.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the parent
selections in growth habit and size, inflorescence size and
level of heat tolerance.

PROPAGATION

In comparison to the commercially available variety
‘Osjamwhit’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,070), ‘DEL COM WH’

Time to rooting: 10 to 14 days at approximately 22° C.
Root description: Fine, fibrous.

PLANT

Growth habit: Upright outwardly spreading herbaceous perennial.

Height: Approximately 37 cm.

Plant spread: Approximately 90 cm.

Growth rate: Medium.

Branching characteristics: Free Branching.

Length of lateral branches: Approximately 30 cm.

Number of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 105.

Age of plant described: Approximately 137 days.

FOLIAGE

Leaf:

Arrangement.—Alternate single.

Average length.—Approximately 4 cm.

Average width.—Approximately 1.85 cm.

Shape of blade.—Obovate.

Apex.—Abruptly acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Attachment.—Stalked.

Margin.—Entire with occasional tiny serrations.

Texture of top surface.—Lightly pubescent.

Texture of bottom surface.—Lightly pubescent.

Leaf internode length.—Approximately 1.8 cm.

Color.—Young foliage upper side: Near Green 137A.

Young foliage under side: Near Green 137C. Mature

foliage upper side: Near Green 137A. Mature foliage

under side: Near Green 137C.

Venation.—Type: Pinnate. Venation color upper side:

Near Green 143C. Venation color under side: Near

Green 143C.

Petiole:

Average length.—Approximately 1.3 cm.

Color.—Near Green 143C.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.4 cm.

BLOOM

Inflorescence:

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year round in a greenhouse environment. More compact and better flowering through the summer.

Inflorescence form.—Daisy.

Natural flowering season.—Continuous throughout

February to September in temperate regions.

Number of inflorescences per lateral branch.—

Approximately 15.

Inflorescence diameter.—Approximately 4.8 cm.

Inflorescence depth.—Approximately 1.3 cm.

Disc diameter.—Approximately 1.5 cm.

Inflorescence longevity on plant.—Approximately 6 to

10 days; longevity of individual flowers are very

dependent on temperature and light conditions.

Color stays as the flower ages.

Persistence.—Persistent.

Ray florets:

Appearance.—Matte.

Texture.—Smooth.

Average number of ray florets per inflorescence.—22.

Shape.—Oblanceolate.

Aspect.—Slightly cupped, facing upward or outward.

Margin.—Entire.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Average length.—Approximately 2.1 cm.

Average width.—Approximately 0.5 cm.

Color.—Upper surface at first opening: Near Orange-

White 159D. Upper surface at maturity: Near White

155B. Upper surface at fading: Near White 155D.

Under surface at first opening: Near Purple 79A with

longitudinal stripes of near Purple 76C. Under sur-

face at maturity: Near Purple 79A with longitudinal

stripes of near Violet 87D. Under surface at fading:

Near Violet 86A with longitudinal stripes of near

Violet 85D.

Disc florets:

Appearance.—Shiny.

Texture.—Smooth.

Average number of florets per disc.—Approximately 107.

Shape.—Tubular.

Apex.—Five-pointed.

Average length.—Approximately 0.6 cm.

Average width.—Approximately 0.1 cm.

Color.—At first opening: Near Blue 103B. At maturity:

Near Blue 103A. At fading: Near Blue 103A.

Peduncle:

Length.—Between 9 and 15 cm.

Angle.—Terminal peduncles, erect; secondary and tertiary peduncles, about 45° from vertical.

Strength.—Moderate.

Color.—Near Yellow-Green 144B.

Habit.—Upright.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.2 cm.

Surface texture.—Lightly pubescent.

Inflorescence bud:

Length.—Approximately 0.6 cm.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.5 cm.

Form.—Elliptic.

Color.—Near Green 138A.

Involucral bracts (phyllaries):

Appearance.—Matte.

Texture.—Lightly pubescent.

Number.—Approximately 22.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Margin.—Entire.

Apex.—Narrowly acute.

Length.—Approximately 1 cm.

Width.—Approximately 0.3 cm.

Color.—Upper side: Near Green 137A. Under side:

Near Green 138A.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Androecium.—Present on disc florets only. Number of

stamens: 5. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length:

Approximately 1.3 mm. Anther color: Near Blue

103A. Amount of pollen: Minimal. Pollen color:

Near Yellow-Orange 16A.

Gynoecium.—Present on ray and disc florets. Pistil

Number: One. Pistil length: Approximately 4 mm.

Stigma shape: Two parted. Stigma length: Approxi-

mately 1 mm. Stigma color: Near Blue 79A. Style

length: Approximately 1.1 mm. Style color: Near

Purple 79D.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Disease resistance: Neither resistance nor susceptibility to diseases or pests has been observed in this variety.

Drought tolerance/cold tolerance: Plants are moderately drought tolerant. Plants need cold, less than 12.8° C. for flower induction.

Fruit/seed production: Commercially, this plant is not used or observed in a stage where seeds would be produced.

Therefore, seed production has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'DEL COM WH' as herein illustrated and described.

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