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Schmulling

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

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

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

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

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

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP16,914 P2 * 8/2006 Mehring-Lemper Plt./360

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Wendy C. Haas

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant cultivar is disclosed,
characterized by small daisy type inflorescences, freely
flowering, compact growth habit, creamy white inflores-
cences with a creamy yellow underside and a gray-green
center and a high heat tolerance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species: *Osteospermum eck-
lonis*.

Variety denomination: ‘DEL COM YS’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The new cultivar ‘DEL COM YS’ 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.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar ‘DEL COM YS’
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

The cultivar ‘DEL COM YS’ 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 ‘DEL
COM YS’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘DEL COM YS’ as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* culti-
var:

1. Small daisy type inflorescences;
2. Freely flowering, compact growth habit;
3. Creamy white inflorescences with a creamy yellow
underside and gray-green center; and
4. High heat tolerance.

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

In comparison to the commercially available variety ‘WC
32/44’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,914), ‘DEL COM YS’ is
shorter but wider and has a longer internode length.

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Additionally, ‘DEL COM YS’ has a longer inflorescence
longevity and a higher heat tolerance. Finally, the ray florets
of ‘DEL COM YS’ are a creamier yellow and the disc florets
are a darker gray-green.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates in full color a
typical plant of ‘DEL COM YS’ grown in an outdoor garden.
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.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

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 YS’ 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.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar
‘DEL COM YS.’

Commercial classification: Garden-type *Osteospermum*.

PROPAGATION

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 35 cm.

Plant spread: Approximately 88 cm.

Growth rate: Medium.
 Branching characteristics: Free Branching.
 Length of lateral branches: Approximately 28 cm.
 Number of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 98.
 Age of plant described: Approximately 137 days.

FOLIAGE

Leaf:

Arrangement.—Alternate single.
Average length.—Approximately 3.8 cm.
Average width.—Approximately 1.6 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 1.4 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 1.2 cm.
Color.—Near Green 143C.
Diameter.—Approximately 0.2 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.
Inflorescence form.—Daisy.
Natural flowering season.—Continuous throughout February to September in temperate regions.
Number of inflorescences per lateral branch.—Approximately 13.
Inflorescence diameter.—Approximately 4.75 cm.
Inflorescence depth.—Approximately 1.4 cm.
Disc diameter.—Approximately 1.8 cm.
Inflorescence longevity on plant.—Approximately 6 to 10 days; longevity of individual flowers are very dependent on temperature and light conditions.
Persistence.—Persistent.

Ray florets:

Appearance.—Matte.
Texture.—Smooth.
Average number of ray florets per inflorescence.—23, in one or two whorls.
Shape.—Oblanceolate.
Aspect.—Slightly cupped, facing upward or outward.
Margin.—Entire.
Apex.—Obtuse.
Average length.—Approximately 2.4 cm.
Average width.—Approximately 0.6 cm.
Color.—Upper surface at first opening: Near Orange-White 159D. Upper surface at maturity: Near Yellow-White 158D. Upper surface at fading: Near Yellow-White 158D. Under surface at first opening: Near Greyed-Yellow 160B. Under surface at maturity:

ity: Near Greyed-Yellow 160A. Under surface at fading: Near Greyed-Yellow 160B.

Disc florets:

Appearance.—Shiny.
Texture.—Smooth.
Average number of florets per disc.—Approximately 63.
Shape.—Tubular.
Apex.—Five-pointed.
Average length.—Approximately 0.5 cm.
Average width.—Approximately 0.1 cm.
Color.—At first opening: Near Greyed-Green 191C. At maturity: Slightly darker than Greyed-Yellow 160D. At fading: Near Greyed-Yellow 160D.

Peduncle:

Length.—Between 8.7 and 11.6 cm.
Angle.—Terminal peduncles, erect; secondary and tertiary peduncles, about 45° from vertical.
Strength.—Moderate.
Color.—Near Yellow-Green 144A.
Habit.—Upright.
Diameter.—Approximately 0.2 cm.
Surface texture.—Lightly pubescent.

Inflorescence bud:

Length.—Approximately 0.5 cm.
Diameter.—Approximately 0.3 cm.
Form.—Elliptic.
Color.—Near Green 138A.

Involucral bracts (phyllaries):

Appearance.—Matte.
Texture.—Lightly pubescent.
Number.—Approximately 20.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Margin.—Entire.

Apex.—Narrowly acute.

Length.—Approximately 1.2 cm.

Width.—Approximately 0.2 cm.

Color.—Upper side: Near Yellow-Green 144A. Under side: Near Yellow-Green 144B.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Number of stamens: 5. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: Approximately 1.2 mm. Anther color: Near Greyed-Yellow 162B. Amount of pollen: Minimal. Pollen color: Near Greyed-Orange 167B.

Gynoecium.—Present on ray and disc florets. Pistil number: One. Pistil length: Approximately 3 mm. Stigma shape: Two parted. Stigma length: Approximately 1 mm. Stigma color: Near Greyed-Yellow 160B. Style length: Approximately 1 mm. Style color: Near Yellow-White 158D.

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 YS' as herein illustrated and described.

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