

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,200 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 9, 2008**

(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
‘DUETISUNSET’

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

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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.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/807,294**

(22) Filed: **May 26, 2007**

(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.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named
‘Duetisunset’, characterized by its compact, upright and
mounded plant habit; freely branching growth habit; freely
flowering habit; and daisy-type inflorescences with elon-
gated oblong-shaped ray florets that are initially yellow and
with development, become soft orange in color.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Duetisunset’.

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 name ‘Duet-
isunset’.

The new *Osteospermum* is a product of a planned breed-
ing program conducted by the Inventor in Rheinberg, Ger-
many. The objective of the program is to create and develop
new *Osteospermum* cultivars with uniformly mounded plant
habit, freely flowering habit and attractive inflorescence col-
oration.

The new *Osteospermum* originated from an open-
pollination by the Inventor in August, 2003 of a proprietary
selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code num-
ber E-01-13, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with
an unknown selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* as the
male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* was discov-
ered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant
within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a con-
trolled environment in Rheinberg, Germany in May, 2004.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by termi-
nal cuttings in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Ger-
many since July, 2004, has shown that the unique features of
this new *Osteospermum* are stable and reproduced true to
type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Duetisunset 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 ‘Duetisun-

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set’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Duet-
isunset’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum*:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Daisy-type inflorescences with elongated oblong-
shaped ray florets that are initially yellow and with
development, become soft orange in color.

In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg,
Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily
from plants of the female parent selection in ray floret col-
oration as plants of the female parent selection have yellow-
colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to
plants of the *Osteospermum* cultivar Duetibredaor, disclosed
in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,112. In side-by-side comparisons
conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new
Osteospermum differed from plants of the cultivar Duetibre-
daor in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were more freely
branching than plants of the cultivar Duetibredaor.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* had broader leaves
than plants of the cultivar Duetibredaor.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were more freely
flowering than plants of the cultivar Duetibredaor.
4. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar Dueti-
bredaor differed in ray floret color as plants of the cul-
tivar Duetibredaor had darker-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall
appearance of the new *Osteospermum*. This photograph
shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain
in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photo-
graph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the
detailed botanical description which accurately describe the
colors of the new *Osteospermum*. The photograph comprises

a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Duet-sunset'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Rheinberg, Germany during the spring in a glass-covered greenhouse and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 18° C. and light levels averaged 4,500 lux. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Plants were about 16 weeks old when the photograph and description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Duet-sunset.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number E-01-13, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About ten days at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About three weeks at 20° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Compact, upright and mounded plant habit. Inflorescences positioned well above the foliar plane. Moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 15 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 14 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching, about six lateral branches per plant. Length: About 14 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 5.1 cm. Width: About 1.9 cm. Shape: Spatulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Dentate. Texture, upper surface: Pubescent; leathery. Texture, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 137B. Developing foliage, lower surface: 144A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 144B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137B to 137C; venation, 144B. Petiole length: About 2.8 cm. Petiole diameter: About 2 mm. Petiole, texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Petiole color, upper surface: 144B. Petiole color, lower surface: 144A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with elongated oblong-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences positioned above the foliage, arising from leaf axils.

Disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences face mostly upright to outward. Freely flowering habit; about 45 inflorescences develop over time per plant. Inflorescences persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

Flowering response.—In Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to autumn. Early flowering habit, plants being flowering about six weeks after planting. Inflorescences last about three days on the plant.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: 137B tinted with 152A to 152B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6.2 cm. Depth (height): About 2 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.2 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 4 mm. Receptacle height: About 3 mm.

Ray florets.—Shape: Elongated oblong. Length: About 3.3 cm. Width: About 7 mm. Apex: Emarginate. Base: Obtuse. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 19 in about two whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: 13A to 13B; towards the base, close to 155D. When opening, lower surface: 166A and 163B. Fully opened, upper surface: 22A to 22B; towards the base, close to 22D; at the base, close to 57A. Fully opened, lower surface: 166A and 163B.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 7 mm. Diameter, apex: About 2 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 50. Color: Immature: 93C. Mature: Apex: 152B. Mid-section: 154D. Base: 154B.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 18 to 20. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; leathery. Color, upper surface: 137B to 137C. Color, lower surface: 137C.

Peduncles. Length: About 6 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Leathery. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Ovate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: 103A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 23A. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 7 mm. Stigma shape: Lanceolate. Stigma color: 79A. Style length: About 3 mm. Style color: 79A. Ovary color: 144C.

Seeds.—Length: About 7 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color: 199A.

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

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Duet-sunset' as illustrated and described.

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