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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'SUNNY CARLOS'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **Sunny Carlos**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunny Carlos', characterized by its compact and mounded plant habit; freely branching growth habit; freely flowering habit; daisy-type inflorescences with oblanceolate-shaped ray florets that are white in color; and have good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis.*
Cultivar denomination: 'Sunny Carlos'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant, botanically known as *Osteospermum ecklonis,* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Sunny Carlos'.

The new *Osteospermum* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Odense, Denmark. The objective of the program is to create and develop new *Osteospermum* cultivars with compact and uniformly mounded plant habit, freely flowering habit and attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* originated from a cross-pollination by the Inventor in May, 2004 of the *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Sunny Mary, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,389, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 40.004.02, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Odense, Denmark in June, 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Odense, Denmark since January, 2007, 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 Sunny Carlos 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 'Sunny

Carlos'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Sunny Carlos' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum:*

1. Compact and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Daisy-type inflorescences with oblanceolate-shaped ray florets that are white in color.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the female parent, the cultivar Sunny Mary, in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than plants of the cultivar Sunny Mary.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the cultivar Sunny Mary differ in ray floret color as plants of the cultivar Sunny Mary have purple-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the male parent selection differ primarily in ray floret color as plants of the male parent selection have cream-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of the *Osteospermum* cultivar Sunny Felix, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,419. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Odense, Denmark, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed from plants of the cultivar Sunny Felix primarily in the lower surface color of the ray florets as lower surfaces of ray florets of plants of the cultivar Sunny Felix were dark purple in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum.* This photographs shows 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 *Osteospermum.*

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunny Carlos'.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Sunny Carlos'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The aforementioned photographs, following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Odense, Denmark 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 temperatures ranged from 14° C. to 20° C., night temperatures averaged 14° C. and light levels ranged from 200 to 800 watts per square meter. Measurements and numerical values represent averages for typical flowering plants. Plants were pinched one time and were about 15 weeks old when the photographs and description were taken.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Sunny Carlos.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Sunny Mary, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 16,389.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 40.004.02, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at 18° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About twelve days at 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About three weeks at 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About four weeks at 18° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Compact and mounded plant habit. Inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane. Low to moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 20.9 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 24.9 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching, about five primary lateral branches per plant. Length: About 7.9 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 8 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple; sessile. Length: About 5.7 cm. Width: About 2.1 cm. Shape: Oblanceolate to obovate. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Dentate; coarse, irregular. Texture, upper and lower surface: Smooth, glabrous; leathery; moderately dense pubescence along the leaf margins. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: Between 141B and 143B. Developing foliage, lower surface: Between 143A and 144A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 138B. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137B; venation, 144B.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with oblanceolate-shaped ray florets. Inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliage; inflorescences terminal and axillary. Disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences face mostly upright to outward. Freely flowering habit; about 55 inflorescences develop per plant. Inflorescences not persistent. Inflorescences not fragrant.

Flowering response.—In northern Europe, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to late summer. Early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about eight weeks after pinching. Inflorescences last about two weeks on the plant.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.4 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: Towards the base, 137B; towards the apex, 151C to 151D.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 6.3 cm. Depth (height): About 1.9 cm. Disc diameter: About 4 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 9 mm. Receptacle height: About 9 mm.

Ray florets.—Length: About 3.4 cm. Width: About 9 mm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Retuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; at the base, pubescent. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 18 in about two whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to N155A; towards the base, 79B to 79C. When opening, lower surface: Between 150D and 155A; towards the apex and venation, close to N187A to N187B. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to N155A; towards the base, close to 79C to 79D. Fully opened, lower surface: Between 150D and 155A; towards the apex and venation, close to N187A to N187B.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 9 mm. Diameter, apex: About 4 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 50. Color: Immature: Apex: Close to 93A. Mid-section and base: Close to N187C to N187D. Mature: Apex: Close to 93A. Mid-section and base: Close to 155D flushed with 182D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 18 in a single whorl. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: 144A. Color, lower surface: 137B; towards the margins, 138A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 7.2 cm. Length, fourth peduncle: About 6.1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect, terminal peduncles: Mostly upright. Aspect, axillary peduncles: About 25° from vertical. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Close to 202A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 17B. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 4 mm. Stigma shape: Lanceolate. Stigma color: N186A to N186B. Style length: About 2 mm. Style color: N186B. Ovary color: 145D.

Seeds/fruits.—Seed and fruit development have not been observed on plants of the new *Osteospermum.*

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 0° C. to about 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunny Carlos' as illustrated and described.

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