



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

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

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

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(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
'Balserlem', characterized by its medium yellow-colored
flowers, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vig-
orous, and upright-mounded growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed:
Osteospermum ecklonis.

Variety denomination: 'Balserlem'.

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 cultivar name 'Bal-
serlem'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding pro-
gram in Santa Paula, Calif. during June 2006. The objective of
the breeding program was the development of *Osteospermum*
cultivars that are freely flowering with unique flower colora-
tion and a freely branching, compact, and upright growth
habit.

The new *Osteospermum* cultivar was the result of a self-
pollination of the proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breed-
ing selection designated 10925-1, not patented, characterized
by its bright yellow-colored flowers, medium green-colored
foliage, and moderately vigorous, upright growth habit. The
new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering
plant within the progeny of the above stated self-pollination
during February 2007 in a controlled environment at Santa
Paula, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since February 2007 at Santa Paula, Calif. and West
Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar repro-
duces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein
described, firmly fixed and retained through successive gen-
erations 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 'Balser-
lem' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant:

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

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Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the parent
primarily in flower color, flower size and growth habit. The
new cultivar has a different shade of flower color, larger
flowers, and a more mounded growth habit.

5 Of the many commercially available *Osteospermum* culti-
vars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is
TRADEWINDS Pure Yellow 'Oste Yel', U.S. Plant Pat. No.
19,050. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of the
new cultivar differ from plants of 'Oste Yel' in at least the
10 following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a ray floret color different
from plants of 'Oste Yel';
2. Plants of the new cultivar have a smaller inflorescence
diameter than plants of 'Oste Yel'; and
- 15 3. Plants of the new cultivar have a smaller disc diameter
than plants of 'Oste Yel'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

20 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 accu-
25 rately describes the colors of 'Balserlem'. The plants were
grown in 4.5 inch pots for 9 weeks in a greenhouse at West
Chicago, Ill.

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

30 FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual inflores-
cence of 'Balserlem'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

35 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.

40 The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural
Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where gen-

eral color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in May 2009 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings 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 9 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. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* cultivar Balserlem:

Parentage:

Female and male parents.—Proprietary *Osteospermum ecklonis* breeding selection designated 10925-1, 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:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 10 to 13 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous and upright-mounded.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 28.4 cm. Width: Approximately 18.6 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, pinching improves basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 4.

Branch.—Strength: Strong. Length to base of peduncle: Approximately 6.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 4.5 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of young and mature stems: 144B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 12. Fragrance: Pungent. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Acute angle to stem becoming perpendicular to an obtuse angle with age. Shape: Spatulate. Margin: Widely dentate. Apex: Acute becoming rounded with age. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 5.1 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.5 cm. Texture of upper surface: Sparsely pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Sparsely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 137A with venation of 145C. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 138B with venation of 144D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 137A with venation of 145B. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 138A with venation of 144D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 2.6 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Mixture of glandular and non-glandular pubescence. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 145B.

5 Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Balserlem’ 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: Slight. Quantity per plant: Approximately 2. Diameter: Approximately 7.3 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.4 cm.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 19.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glandular pubescent. Gland color: Colorless. Color: 144B.

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 2.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Ovoid. Length: Approximately 1.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.2 cm. Color: 154B.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 26. Arrangement: Imbricate in a single whorl. Aspect: Initially at acute angle to disc, becoming perpendicular at maturity. Shape: Oblanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Emarginate with three tips. Base: Attenuate, fused to form a tube. Length: Approximately 3.5 cm. Width: Approximately 8.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Glabrous with a densely pubescent base. Color of upper surface when first open: Base of 4C transitioning toward apex to 5A. Color of lower surface when first open: Between 5B and 5C. Color of upper surface when fully open: Base of 4D transitioning toward apex to 5B. Color of lower surface when fully open: 5C.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 126. Arrangement: Massed in center of inflorescence. Shape: Tubular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Five acute tips. Base: Attenuate, fused. Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 2.0 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous with a sparsely pubescent outer surface. Color when fully open: Closest to 155D and base of 144D.

Disc.—Diameter: Approximately 1.4 cm. Depth: Approximately 5.0 mm.

Receptacle.—Shape: Conical. Height: Approximately 3.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Color: 154D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence Approximately 26. Arrangement: In a single whorl. Shape: Linear to lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of upper or inner surface: Densely pubescent at tip. 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 5.0 mm. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: N186A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 21A. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. Pistil quantity: 1 per floret. Pistil length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma length: Less than 1 mm. Stigma color: N186A. Style length: Approximately 6.0 mm.

Style color: Colorless, transparent. Ovary length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Ovary color: 144D.

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

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 'Balserlem', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2