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(54) **GERBERA PLANT NAMED 'KINGS CANYON'**

(50) Latin Name: *Gerbera jamesonii*
Varietal Denomination: **Kings Canyon**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Gerbera* plant named 'Kings Canyon', characterized by its compact, upright and uniformly mounding plant habit; freely flowering habit; bright yellow-colored ray florets; yellow-colored disc florets with orange-colored apices; and upright, strong and relatively short scapes.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Gerbera jamesonii*.
Cultivar denomination: 'KINGS CANYON'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Gerbera* plant, botanically known as *Gerbera jamesonii* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Kings Canyon'.

The new *Gerbera* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Kwakel, The Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to create new compact container *Gerbera* cultivars with numerous inflorescences, good garden performance and attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Gerbera* plant originated from a cross-pollination during the summer of 2005 in De Kwakel, The Netherlands of *Gerbera jamesonii* 'Flocave', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,339, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Gerbera jamesonii* identified as code number I 07 304, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Gerbera* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in De Kwakel, The Netherlands during the spring of 2006.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Gerbera* plant by tissue culture in a controlled environment in De Kwakel, The Netherlands since the summer of 2006 has shown that the unique features of this new *Gerbera* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Gerbera* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature 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 'Kings Canyon'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Kings Canyon' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Gerbera*:

1. Compact, upright and uniformly mounding plant habit.
2. Freely flowering habit.

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3. Bright yellow-colored ray florets.
4. Yellow-colored disc florets with orange-colored apices.
5. Upright, strong and relatively short scapes.

Plants of the new *Gerbera* differ from plants of the female parent, 'Flocave', in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Gerbera* have more uniform inflorescences than plants of 'Flocave'.
2. Inflorescences of plants of the new *Gerbera* have more numerous inner ray florets than inflorescences of plants of 'Flocave'.
3. Ray florets of plants of the new *Gerbera* are bright yellow in color whereas ray florets of plants of 'Flocave' are white in color.

Plants of the new *Gerbera* differ from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Gerbera* are more compact than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Gerbera* have shorter scapes than plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Gerbera* and the male parent selection differ in ray floret coloration.

Plants of the new *Gerbera* can be compared to plants of the *Gerbera jamesonii* 'Flostone', disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 12/454,020. Plants of the new *Gerbera* differ from plants of 'Flostone' in the following characteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Gerbera* have more rounded apices than leaves of plants of 'Flostone'.
2. Plants of the new *Gerbera* have larger inflorescences than plants of 'Flostone'.
3. Plants of the new *Gerbera* have longer scapes than plants of 'Flostone'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Gerbera* plant. The photograph shows the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed

botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Gerbera* plant. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Kings Canyon' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in a glass-covered greenhouse during the spring and summer in De Kwakel, The Netherlands and under conditions and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial container *Gerbera* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 19° C. to 26° C. and night temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 18° C. Rooted young tissue-cultured plants were planted in 19-cm containers and were six months old when the photograph was taken and ten months old when the description was taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, Fifth Edition, 2007, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Gerbera jamesonii* 'Kings Canyon'.
Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Gerbera jamesonii* 'Flocave', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,339.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Gerbera jamesonii* identified as code number I07304, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By tissue culture.

Time to initiate roots.—About 2.5 weeks at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—About five to six weeks at temperatures of 20° C. to 26° C.

Root description.—Fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderate branching; dense.

Plant description:

Appearance.—Herbaceous perennials with semi-double inflorescences that are typically grown as a container or garden plants; compact, upright and uniformly mounding plant habit; leaves arranged in basal rosettes and outwardly arching; dense and bushy habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 54 cm.

Plant width.—About 60 cm.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 40 cm.

Width.—About 15 cm.

Shape.—Runcinate; lanceolate to narrowly elliptic in outline.

Apex.—Obtuse.

Base.—Acuminate.

Margin.—Pinnately lobed with coarse and irregular sinuses, lobes divergent; undulate.

Texture, upper surface.—Sparsely pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Moderately pubescent; woolly.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 141A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 139A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N139A; venation, close to 144B to 144C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 144B.

Petioles.—Length: About 13.4 cm. Diameter: About 5.5 mm. Texture, upper surface: Sparsely pubescent. Texture, lower surface: Moderately pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144A.

5 Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Semi-double type inflorescence form with narrowly elliptic-shaped ray florets; solitary inflorescences borne on upright, strong and relatively short scapes above the foliar plane; ray and disc florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering season.—Plants begin flowering about four months after planting and flower from early spring to the end of the summer in outdoor gardens in The Netherlands; plants flower year-round under greenhouse conditions.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last about two weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering habit with about eight open and developing inflorescences per plant at one time.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Oblate. Color: Close to 144B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 11.5 cm. Depth (height): About 2.3 cm. Diameter of disc: About 3.4 cm. Receptacle height: About 8 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 9 mm. Receptacle color: Close to NN155C.

Ray florets.—Orientation: Initially upright, then roughly perpendicular to the peduncle and slightly reflexing. Length: About 5.2 cm. Width: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Narrowly elliptic. Apex: Obtuse, rounded. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; longitudinally ridged. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 95 outer ray florets and about 280 inner ray florets arranged in about three to four whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 10A; inner ray florets with stripes, close to 25A. When opening, lower surface: Close to 11A. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 25A. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 2B.

Disc florets.—Arrangement: Massed at center of receptacle. Shape: Tubular, fused. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Margin: Entire. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 4.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 500. Color, immature: Apex: Close to 202A. Mid-section and base: Close to 13A. Color, mature: Apex: Close to 25A, becoming closer to 30A with development. Mid-section and base: Close to 13A.

Pappus.—Quantity per floret: About 50. Length: About 8 mm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Texture: Soft. Color: Close to N77A and 187A.

Phyllaries.—Number of phyllaries per inflorescence: About 120 in about four whorls. Length: About 1.6 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Densely tomentose. Color, upper surface: Close to 143A; towards the apex, close to 144A. Color, lower surface: Close to 137B; towards the apex, close to 143B.

Scapes.—Length: About 51 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm.
Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Densely
tomentose. Color: Close to 138B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc
florets only. Quantity per floret: Two. Filament length: 5
About 6 mm. Filament color: Close to NN155C.
Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 4
mm. Anther color: Close to 12B. Pollen amount:
Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 12A. Gynoecium:
Present on disc and ray florets. Quantity per floret: 10
One. Pistil length: About 1.1 cm. Stigma shape:
Rounded; curved. Stigma color: Close to 155D. Style
length: About 1 cm. Style color: Close to NN155C.
Ovary color: Close to 145D.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit production has not been
observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests
common to *Gerberas* has not been observed on plants of
the new *Gerbera* grown under commercial conditions.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Gerbera* have been
observed to tolerate temperatures from about 1° C. to about
35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Gerbera* plant named 'Kings Canyon'
as illustrated and described.

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