



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Klemm et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP22,074 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 9, 2011**

(54) **OSTEOSPERMUM PLANT NAMED**
'KLEOE09164'

(50) Latin Name: *Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.
Varietal Denomination: **KLEOE09164**

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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.: **12/798,140**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 30, 2010**

(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**

An *Osteospermum* variety named 'KLEOE09164' particu-
larly distinguished by a very early flowering time, a very
compact growth habit, and excellent branching, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species: *Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.
Variety denomination: 'KLEOE09164'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct variety
of *Osteospermum*, botanically known as *Osteospermum eck-*
lonis Norl., and hereinafter referred to by the variety name
'KLEOE09164'. The new variety originated from an open
pollination made in August 2005 in Stuttgart, Germany. The
female parent was a proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named
'KLEO03106' (unpatented), and the male parent was an
unknown *Osteospermum* plant (unpatented).

The new variety was first propagated via vegetative cut-
tings in May 2006 in Stuttgart, Germany and has been asexu-
ally reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings in Stuttgart,
Germany for more than 15 generations. The present invention
has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through
successive asexual propagations via vegetative cuttings.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this variety have not been
applied for. 'KLEOE09164' has not been made publicly
available or sold more than one year prior to the filing date of
this application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing
characteristics of the new variety when grown under normal
horticultural practices in Stuttgart, Germany.

1. A very early flowering time;
2. A very compact growth habit; and
3. Excellent branching.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

This new *Osteospermum* plant is illustrated by the accom-
panying photograph which shows a close-up of a flower of the
plant. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably
obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The pho-
tograph was taken in Summer 2009 of a 7-month-old plant in
the field in Stuttgart, Germany, under conditions which
approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive
characteristics of 'KLEOE09164'. The data which define

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these characteristics were collected from asexual reproduc-
tions carried out in Stuttgart, Germany. The plant history was
taken in Summer 2009 on 7-month-old plants which were
potted at 4 weeks in 12 centimeter containers and then planted
in the ground in calendar week 20. The plants were pinched
once at 6 weeks. Color readings were taken under natural
light. Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour
Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.),
Fifth Edition (2007).

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

Classification:

Family.—Asteraceae.

Botanical name.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* Norl.

Common name.—African daisy.

Parentage:

Female parent.—A proprietary *Osteospermum* plant
named 'KLEO03106' (unpatented).

Male parent.—An unknown *Osteospermum* plant (un-
patented).

Plant:

Form and habit.—Semi-upright (V-shape).

Growth habit.—Compact.

Branching habit.—Excellent branching.

Height (from top of soil, including inflorescence).—40.0
cm to 45.0 cm.

Width (including inflorescences).—50.0 cm.

Propagation.—Vegetative cuttings.

Time to produce a finished flowering plant.—15 weeks
from sticking.

Time to initiate and develop roots.—3 weeks.

Root description.—Freely rooting.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Shape.—Obovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Acute.

Margin.—Serrate.

Color.—Immature leaf: Upper surface: RHS 137C.
Lower surface: RHS 137D. Mature leaf: Upper sur-
face: RHS N137C. Lower surface: RHS 137C.

Length.—5.0 cm to 5.7 cm.
Width.—2.0 cm.
Texture.—Glabrous on the upper surface.
Appearance.—Leathery on the upper surface.
Petioles.—Absent.
Venation pattern.—No venation.

Stems:

Total number of branches.—Approximately 10 to 12.
Length.—40.0 cm to 45.0 cm.
Diameter.—0.5 cm.
Internode length.—0.5 cm to 1.0 cm.
Color.—RHS 138B.
Texture.—Glabrous.
Appearance.—Leathery.
Anthocyanin.—Absent.

Inflorescence buds:

Shape.—Obovate.
Length.—2.0 cm.
Diameter.—1.0 cm.
Color (at tight bud just before the ray florets unfold).—RHS 143B.

Inflorescence:

Type.—Composite.
Blooming habit.—Plants flower continuously from early Spring to Fall.
Quantity of inflorescences per plant.—Approximately 150.
Lastingness of the inflorescences on the plant.—10 days.
Fragrance.—Absent.
Inflorescence diameter.—6.0 cm to 7.0 cm.
Inflorescence depth.—Approximately 1.0 cm.
Disc diameter.—1.0 cm.

Disc floret:

Quantity per inflorescence.—Approximately 50.
Shape.—Tubular, radially symmetrical.
Tube color.—Closed: RHS 2D and RHS 86B. Mature: RHS 2D and RHS 94B.
Length.—Approximately 0.6 cm.
Diameter (at apex).—0.3 cm.
Apex.—Acuminate.
Apex color.—RHS 94B.
Base.—Obtuse.
Base color.—RHS 2D.
Margin.—Entire.

Ray floret:

Quantity per inflorescence.—15 to 20.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Color.—Upper surface: RHS 155C. Lower surface: RHS 77D and RHS 12B and RHS 155C (stripes).
Length.—3.0 cm.
Width.—1.0 cm.
Apex.—Obtuse.
Base.—Acute.
Margin.—Entire.

Texture.—Smooth.
Peduncle.—Length: 12.0 cm. Diameter: 0.2 cm. Texture: Rough. Color: RHS 143C.

Phyllaries:

Arrangement.—Single.
Observed quantity per plant.—15 to 20.
Shape.—Lanceolate.
Color (both upper and lower surfaces).—RHS 143C.
Length.—1.0 cm.
Width.—0.2 cm.
Apex.—Acute.
Base.—Obtuse.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Rough.

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Location: In the disc floret. Stamens: Quantity: 50. Shape: Tubular. Color: RHS 95A. Filament length: 0.5 cm. Filament diameter: 0.1 cm. Anther: Shape: Longitudinal. Color: RHS N186A. Length: 0.3 cm. Diameter: 0.1 cm. Pollen: Color: RHS 162A. Amount: Moderate.
Gynoecium.—Location: On the base of the ray floret; gynoecium in the disc floret is not functional. Pistils: Number: 15 to 20. Length: 0.3 cm. Diameter: 0.05 cm. Stigma: Color: RHS 92B. Shape: Ovate. Length: 0.2 cm. Diameter: 0.001 cm. Style: Color: RHS 92B. Length: 0.3 cm. Diameter: 0.001 cm.

Fruit and seed set: Dark brown, torpedo-shaped seeds; moderate seed set observed.

Disease and insect resistance: No particular disease or insect resistance observed.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

'KLEOE09164' differs from the female parent, the proprietary *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEO03106' (unpatented), in that 'KLEOE09164' has an earlier flowering time and better branching than 'KLEO03106'. In addition, 'KLEOE09164' has a more compact growth habit than 'KLEO03106'.

'KLEOE09164' differs from the commercial variety 'KLEOE06123' (unpatented) in that 'KLEOE09164' has an earlier flowering time and better branching than 'KLEOE06123'. In addition, 'KLEOE09164' has a more compact growth habit than 'KLEOE06123'. Further, 'KLEOE09164' has lower petals that are pink-grey in color, whereas 'KLEOE06123' has lower petals that are blue-grey in color.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Osteospermum* plant named 'KLEOE09164' as shown and described herein.

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