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

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

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum* sp.**
Varietal Denomination: **Avalanche**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./360**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An *Osteospermum* variety named ‘Avalanche’ particularly
distinguished by a cold hardiness to -25° F., a large, white
flower size and a compact, prostrate habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Genus and species: *Osteospermum* sp.

Variety denomination: ‘Avalanche’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct variety
of *Osteospermum*, botanically known as *Osteospermum* sp.,
and hereinafter referred to by the variety name ‘Avalanche’.
The new variety originated from an *Osteospermum jucundum*
(unpatented) and *Osteospermum barberiae* (unpatented)
hybridization. Cuttings from the hybridization were rooted,
planted and grown out in Denver, Colo. in August 2002.
‘Avalanche’ was selected in June 2005 based on its extreme
cold hardiness, large, white flowers and compact, prostrate
habit. ‘Avalanche’ was first propagated asexually by vegeta-
tive cuttings in June 2005 in Denver, Colo. and has been
asexually propagated over multiple generations. The present
invention has been found to be stable and reproduce true to
type through successive asexual propagations via vegetative
cuttings.

Plant Breeder’s Rights for this variety have not been
applied for. ‘Avalanche’ 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 Denver, Colo.

1. Cold hardiness to -25° F.;
2. Large, white flowers; and
3. Compact, prostrate habit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

This new *Osteospermum* plant is illustrated by the accom-
panying photograph which shows an overall view of a mature
plant. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably
obtained by conventional photographic procedures. The pho-
tograph was taken in June 2009 of a three-year-old plant in a

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garden in Denver, Colo. 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 ‘Avalanche’. The data which define these
characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions
carried out in Denver, Colo. The plant history was taken in
Spring 2010 on plants rooted from cuttings stuck in Decem-
ber 2009. The rooted cuttings were transplanted and planted
in larger pots (one gallon size) in February 2010 in a green-
house. Color readings were taken under natural light as well
as microscope 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.—Compositae.

Botanical.—*Osteospermum* sp.

Common.—*Osteospermum*, Cape Daisy, South African
Daisy.

Designation.—‘Avalanche’.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Osteospermum jucundum* (unpat-
ented).

Male parent.—*Osteospermum barberiae* (unpatented).

Plant description:

Habit.—Caespitose; compact, prostrate.

Life cycle.—Perennial.

Form.—Stems spreading at ground level or just above
ground level.

Height (from soil line to top of foliage).—14.5 cm.

Width.—30.0 cm (Potted plant, can get larger in garden).

Cold tolerance.—Cold hardiness to -25° F.

Stems:

General.—Multiple stems, circular in cross section.

Stem length (total).—32.5 cm.

Diameter.—0.3 cm on flower stem midway up.

Internode length.—1.0 cm on average, some longer 5
some shorter.

Color.—RHS 154C (Yellow-green).

Pubescence.—On flower stems only.

Color.—Translucent and colorless.

Shape.—Glandular, but not hooked or barbed. 10

Branches:

General.—Circular in cross section.

Number of main branches.—6 on potted plant, many
more main branches in the ground. 15

Total number of branches.—15 on potted plant, many
more branches in the ground.

Length.—Approximately 1.0 cm from soil line to first
node, 1.0 cm between first and second nodes.

Diameter.—0.5 cm.

Internode length.—0.7 cm. 20

Color.—RHS 145C (Yellow-green).

Pubescence.—Absent.

Leaves:

Arrangement.—Alternate. 25

Shape.—Oval, toothed.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Ciliate (hairs limited to margin of the leaf).

Venation.—Pinnipalmate. 30

Surface (both surfaces).—Glabrous.

Surface pubescence (both surfaces): Ciliate (on edge of
leaf only).

Pubescence color (both surfaces).—Translucent and
colorless. 35

Attachment.—Attenuate.

Length.—3.5 cm.

Width.—0.4 cm.

Thickness.—0.1 cm.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS 147A (Yellow-green). 40
Lower surface: RHS 137A (Green).

Venation color.—Upper surface: Main vein is RHS 148D
(Yellow-green). Lower surface: Main vein is RHS
147A (Yellow-green).

Inflorescence:

Number per plant.—Varies from 1 to 40 depending on
the size of the plant. 45

Type.—Capitulum (head); disc florets are perfect and ray
florets are carpellate.

Flowering habit.—Heavy production in late spring to
early summer, less production through the rest of
growing season but the plant will often have at least a
bloom or two at any one time. 50

Lastingness of flowers.—5 to 7 days, under normal con-
ditions. 55

Fragrance.—Absent.

Flower bud.—Diameter: Range from 1.1 cm to 1.2 cm.
Length: 1.2 cm. Form: Spherical. Color: Closest to
RHS 137A (green).

Inflorescence length.—3.7 cm. 60

Inflorescence diameter.—Average 3.3 cm; range of 2.7
cm to 3.6 cm.

Petal (ray floret) number.—16 per inflorescence.

Disc diameter.—1.5 cm.

Disc floret number.—Approximately 45 per inflores-
cence. 65

Peduncle length.—16.5 cm from inflorescence to first
node.

Peduncle diameter.—0.4 cm.

Peduncle color.—RHS 154C (Yellow-green).

Peduncle texture.—Dull, slight pubescence.

Receptacle.—Height: 4.0 mm. Diameter: 7.0 mm.

Shape: Flat on top, goblet shaped (cupule).

Phyllaries.—Arrangement: per inflorescence, free,
arranged symmetrically. Length: 1.4 cm to 1.5 cm.

Width: 0.1 cm. Apex: Acute. Base: Aequilateral and
lanceolate, pubescent.

Margin.—Ciliate.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptic.

Color.—Upper surface: RHS 139A (Green). Lower sur-
face: RHS 138A (Green).

Texture.—Upper surface: Hirsutulous with glandular
hairs. Lower surface: Glandular hair present.

Ray florets (ligules):

Corolla.—One petal per ray floret; only the outer row of
florets are the ray florets.

Number of ray florets.—16 per inflorescence.

Length.—3.3 cm.

Width.—1.0 cm at widest point of petal.

Shape.—Elliptic (ligulate).

Apex.—Obcordate with 3 points.

Base.—Ligulate, partially fused at the base.

Margin.—Smooth.

Color.—Upper surface: Closest to RHS 155C (White)
with RHS 66D (Red-purple) at apex and margins
when first opening. Lower surface: Largest part is
RHS 142D (Green).

Texture.—Upper surface: Smooth with ridges, some
large plications visible with naked eye. Lower sur-
face: Smooth except for hairs at very base wrapping
around to upper surface.

Pubescence.—Only at base, glands on upper portions of
petal.

Disc florets:

Color.—RHS 3D (Yellow).

Shape.—Tubular.

Apex.—Acute.

Surface.—Glandular.

Size.—Length: 1.1 cm. Width: 0.4 cm.

Reproductive organs:

Pistil length.—0.4 cm in ray florets.

Stigma color.—RHS 202A (Black) in ray florets.

Stigma shape.—Cleft in two.

Style color.—RHS 196C (Greyed-green) in ray florets.

Style length.—Approximately 7.0 mm.

Ovary.—Superior in disc florets. Quantity: Average of
87.25; range of 79 to 92 in disk flowers. Size: 4.0
mm×2.0 mm×<1.0 mm. Color: Margins darkest and
center palest; range from RHS 145A to RHS 145D
(Yellow-green).

Pistil form.—One style with two stigma branches in disc
florets.

Stamens.—5, fused into a single tube in disc florets.
Anther color: RHS 202A (Black) in disc florets. Pol-
len amount: Little, several grains per floret. Pollen

color: RHS 14A (Yellow-orange) in disc florets. Filament color: RHS 3D (Yellow) in disc florets.
Fruit and seed set: None observed
Disease and insect resistance: None

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND
COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

‘Avalanche’ differs from the female parent, the *Osteospermum jucundum* (unpatented), in that ‘Avalanche’ has large blooms that are white in color, while *Osteospermum jucundum* has small blooms that are pink in color.
‘Avalanche’ differs from the male parent, the *Osteospermum barberiae* (unpatented), in that ‘Avalanche’ has white

flower and a compact, short plant habit, while *Osteospermum barberiae* has purple-pink flowers and a tall plant habit.
‘Avalanche’ differs from the commercial *Osteospermum* variety ‘Oste Whitey’ (unpatented) in that ‘Avalanche’ is cold hardy to −25° F. and a prostrate plant habit with leaves that are entire, while ‘Oste Whitey’ is frost tender at 28° F. and has a shrubby plant habit with serrated leaves.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Osteospermum* plant named ‘Avalanche’ as shown and described herein.

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