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

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

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

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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.

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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 'Fidostwhispo', characterized by its compact and mounding plant habit; freely branching growth habit; freely and early flowering habit; large daisy-type inflorescences with white and violet bi-colored spoon-shaped ray florets; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: 'FIDOSTWHISPO'.

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 'Fidostwhispo'.

The new *Osteospermum* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in De Lier, The Netherlands. The objective of the program is to create and develop new compact *Osteospermum* plants that are freely branching and freely flowering and have attractive inflorescence coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* plant originated from a cross-pollination by the Inventor in May, 2006 of an unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Flower Power Spider Purple', not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Osteospermum* 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 Lier, The Netherlands in October, 2006.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in De Lier, The Netherlands since November, 2006, has shown that the unique features of this new *Osteospermum* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* 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 'Fidost-

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

1. Compact and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely and early flowering habit.
4. Large daisy-type inflorescences with white and violet bi-colored spoon-shaped ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the female parent selection primarily in plant and growth habit as plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact in plant habit and more uniform in growth habit than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ from plants of the male parent, 'Flower Power Spider Purple' primarily in ray floret color as plants of 'Flower Power Spider Purple' have purple-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of the *Osteospermum* 'Nasinga White', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in De Lier, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily from plants of 'Nasinga White' in ray floret color as plants of 'Nasinga White' have creamy white-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new *Osteospermum* plant showing 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 *Osteospermum* plant. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Fidostwhispo' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph, following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the spring and early summer in 10.5-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in De Lier, The Netherlands and under conditions

and practices which approximate those generally used in commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 17° C. to 35° C. and night temperatures ranged from 15° C. to 25° C. Plants were pinched one time. Plants were 13 weeks old when the photograph and description were taken. 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.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Fidost-whispo'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Flower Power Spider Purple', not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About six days at 22° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About one week at 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About twelve days at 22° C. to 30° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About two weeks at 20° C. to 25° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; whitish grey in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderate branching; moderately dense.

Plant description:

Plant form/growth habit.—Compact and mounding plant habit; dense and bushy growth habit; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 16 cm to 17 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 25 cm to 27 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching habit, when pinched, about eight to eleven primary lateral branches develop per plant. Length: About 4.5 cm to 6 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 0.5 cm to 4 cm. Strength: Strong, sturdy. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color: Close to 144C.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple; sessile. Length: About 6 cm to 9 cm. Width: About 2.5 cm to 5 cm. Shape: Elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Lobed; senate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Sparsely pubescent. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137A; venation, close to 145C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 146A; venation, close to 145A.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with spoon-shaped ray florets; inflorescences positioned beyond the foliage on moderately strong peduncles; inflorescences terminal and axillary; inflorescences face upright; ray and disc florets developing acropetally on a capitulum.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering habit; about 20 to 35 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—In The Netherlands, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to frost in the autumn; early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about eight weeks after planting.

Inflorescence longevity.—At temperatures of 14° C. to 20° C., inflorescences last about 2.5 weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Inflorescence bud.—Height: About 1.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.2 cm. Shape: Globular to ovoid. Color: Close to 137A.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.5 cm to 6 cm. Depth (height): About 8 mm. Disc diameter: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 4 mm. Receptacle height: About 4 mm. Receptacle color: Close to 146A.

Ray florets.—Length: About 2.7 cm. Width: About 6 mm. Shape: Spoon-shaped. Apex: Rounded to slightly obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Number of ray florets per inflorescence/arrangement: About 16 to 18 in a single whorl. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to NN155D; at the apex, a small spot, close to 83B; with development, central longitudinal stripes, close to 83C, become apparent. Lower surface color apparent at the center of the floret. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 83B; towards the base, close to 85C.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 7 mm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 76 to 80. Color, immature and mature: Apex: Close to 83C. Mid-section and base: Close to 91B.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 18 in about 1.5 whorls. Length: About 9 mm to 10 mm. Width: About 1.5 mm to 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 146A. Color, lower surface: Close to 138A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 12 cm to 16 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: Mostly upright. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Filament length: About 3 mm. Filament color: Close to NN155D. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Close to N77A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 15B. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 6 mm. Stigma shape: Biparted. Stigma color: Close to N77A. Style length: About 6 mm. Style color: Close to NN155D. Ovary color: Close to NN155D.

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 4° C. to about 35° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Fidost-whispo' as illustrated and described.

