

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

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(54) **ECHINACEA PLANT NAMED ‘LEILANI’**

(50) Latin Name: *Echinacea* spp.
Varietal Denomination: **Leilani**

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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 70 days.

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./428
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct *Echinacea* plant named ‘Leilani’ characterized by large yellow inflorescences, a short habit with good branching, a narrow, upright habit, strong stems, and excellent vigor.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical denomination: *Echinacea* spp.
Variety designation: ‘Leilani’.

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea* and given the cultivar name ‘Leilani’. *Echinacea* is in the family *Asteraceae*. This new cultivar is a fourth generation seeding originating from a planned breeding program using *Echinacea paradoxa* (an unpatented plant) as the seed parent in the original cross and *Echinacea purpurea* ‘Ruby Giant’ (an unpatented plant) as the pollen parent. The exact parents of this selection are unknown, unnamed, proprietary plants.

Compared to *Echinacea* ‘Mac ‘n’ Cheese’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,464), the most similar plant on the market, the new variety is more vigorous, has more crowns, larger inflorescences, and the flowers are more yellow, less gold, in color.

Compared to *Echinacea* ‘Now Cheesier’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,059), the new variety is shorter with flowers that are more yellow, less gold, in color.

Compared to *Echinacea* Harvest Moon™ (‘Matthew Saul’ U.S. Plant Pat. No. 17,652), the new variety has longer and wider ray florets and a shorter habit.

This new *Echinacea* cultivar is distinguished by:

1. large yellow inflorescences,
2. a short habit with good branching,
3. narrow, upright habit,
4. strong stems, and
5. excellent vigor.

This new cultivar has been reproduced only by asexual propagation (division and tissue culture). Each of the progeny exhibits identical characteristics to the original plant. Asexual propagation by division and tissue culture using standard micropropagation techniques with terminal and lateral shoots, as done in Canby, Oreg., shows that the foregoing characteristics and distinctions come true to form and are established and transmitted through succeeding propagations. The present invention has not been evaluated under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary with variations in environment without a change in the genotype of the plant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows the inflorescences of *Echinacea* ‘Leilani’ on a one-year-old plant growing in the field in full sun in early September in Canby, Oreg.

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DETAILED PLANT DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new *Echinacea* cultivar based on observations of 18-month-old specimens growing in the trial bed in full sun in Canby, Oreg. Canby is in Zone 8 on the USDA Hardiness map. Temperatures range from a high of 95 degrees F. in August to an average of 32 degrees F. in January. Normal rainfall in Canby is 42.8 inches per year in the trial fields in Canby, Oreg. The color descriptions are all based on The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 5th edition.

Plant:

Type.—Herbaceous perennial.

Hardiness.—USDA Zones 4 to 9.

Size.—Grows to about 39 cm wide and 63 cm tall to top of inflorescences.

Form.—Basal clump, with about 18 stems from the base.

Vigor.—Excellent.

Roots.—Fibrous, with many downward growing and few laterals, ivory in color, Yellow White 158D, roots develop easily from cuttings from the crown.

Stem (flowering):

Type.—Ascending, with 1 to 6 inflorescences per stem.

Size.—To 55 cm tall to a terminal inflorescence and 5 mm wide at base.

Internode length.—1 cm to 3 cm.

Surface texture.—Strigose.

Color.—Yellow Green 146C.

Leaf (basal):

Type.—Simple.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Arrangement.—Basal.

Blade size.—Grows to 11 cm long and 4 cm wide.

Margins.—Sparsely serrate.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Surface texture.—Strigose on both sides.

Venation.—Pinnate, with 3 main veins.

Color.—Topside Green 137A bottom side Yellow Green 147B.

Petiole description.—Grows to 17 cm long and 3 mm wide, strigose, Yellow Green 146C.

Leaf (stem):

Type.—Simple.

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Blade size.—Grows to 11 cm long and 3.7 cm wide. 5

Margins.—Coarsely, irregularly serrate.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Attenuate.

Surface texture.—Strigose on both sides.

Venation.—Pinnate, with 3 main veins from the base. 10

Color.—Topside Yellow Green 137A, bottom side Yellow Green 147B.

Petiole description.—On lowermost leaves only, clasping, grows to 7 cm long and 2 mm wide above the clasp, strigose, Yellow Green 146B. 15

Inflorescence:

Type.—Composite on terminal stalked heads.

Number of flowering stems from the ground.—About 18.

Flowering stem.—Grows to 55 cm tall from the base of the plant to the terminal inflorescence and can grow to 9 to 15 cm long from the top stem leaf to the base of an inflorescence; branched with 1 to 6 inflorescences per stem; diameter growing to 8 mm wide near the inflorescence; strigose; Yellow Green 146C. 20

Size.—Grows to 13 cm wide and 4.5 cm deep as disc enlarges. 25

Form.—Ray florets held slightly reflexed, mature disc is conic.

Immature inflorescence.—Grows to 3 cm wide and 3 cm deep, ray florets held upright and rolled up so only the back color shows, Yellow 10A, disc color Yellow Green 144A. 30

Ray florets.—Without pistil or stamen, about 20 full size in number (and about 4 smaller ray florets growing at irregular angles), grow to 60 mm long and 15 mm wide, oblanceolate with the tip two-toothed (each acute), entire margins, base attenuate, glabrous on 35

both sides; topside Yellow Orange 17A maturing to Yellow 11A, bottom side Yellow Orange 16D.

Disc.—Flat becoming conic, becoming 35 mm deep and 43 mm wide with maturity, Yellow Green 147B in the background and Yellow Orange 21A in the foreground.

Disc florets.—About 320 in number, each with 1 pistil and 4 stamen, grow to 12 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, each with one persistent, very stiff linear bract (14 mm long with the top 4 mm colored Yellow Orange 23A on tip then Yellow Green 144A in middle, then Yellow Green 145D on bottom $\frac{1}{3}$); corollas 6 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, tubular, 5 lobed, glabrous, Yellow Green 146C; pistil 11 mm long, ovary 4 mm long, White 155A, style 5 mm long Yellow Green 145D, 2-branched stigma spreading, Grey Brown 199B; stamens 7 mm long, filaments 4 mm long and Yellow Green 145D, anthers 2 mm long and Greyed Purple N186A, pollen Yellow Orange 17A.

Phyllaries.—In 4 leafy series, area grows to 35 mm wide and 15 mm deep, lobes lanceolate in shape, reflexed, grow to 20 mm long and 3.5 mm wide, Green 137A, margins strigose, tip acute, strigose on both sides.

Receptacle.—Grows to 12 mm wide and 16 mm deep, White 155B.

Bloom period.—July through October in Canby, Oreg.

Fragrance.—Good, floral.

Lastingness.—Each inflorescence lasts about two weeks in Canby, Oreg.

Seeds: 3 mm long and 2.5 mm wide, oval, Brown 200C.

Fertility.—Low.

Disease and pests: No pests or diseases have been observed on plants grown under commercial conditions in Canby, Oreg. No resistances are known.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct *Echinacea* plant as herein illustrated and described.

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