



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

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

(50) Latin Name: *Echinacea*×*hybrida*
Varietal Denomination: **Balsomenco**

(71) Applicant: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

(72) Inventor: **Jianping Ren**, Geneva, IL (US)

(73) Assignee: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

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Primary Examiner — Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Audrey Charles

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea* plant named ‘Bal-
somenco’, characterized by its dark red-orange colored inflo-
rescences, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately
vigorous, compact-upright growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Echina-
cea*×*hybrida*.

Variety denomination: ‘Balsomenco’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Echinacea* plant botanically known as *Echinacea*×*hybrida*
and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Balso-
menco’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding pro-
gram in Elburn, Ill. during September 2007. The objective of
the breeding program was the development of *Echinacea*
cultivars with a single inflorescence form having imbricate
ray florets and a well-branched, compact growth habit.

The new *Echinacea* cultivar is the result of cross-pollina-
tion. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the
proprietary *Echinacea*×*hybrida* breeding selection coded
E30-2, U.S. Pat. No. 7,982,110, characterized by its single-
type, red-orange colored inflorescences, medium green-col-
ored foliage, and moderately vigorous, upright growth habit.
The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is from a bulk
pollen mix of 7 proprietary breeding selections coded E30-1
through E30-7, U.S. Pat. No. 7,982,110, characterized by
their single-type, shades of red-orange colored inflores-
cences, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vig-
orous, upright growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered
and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of
the above stated cross-pollination during October 2008 in a
controlled environment in Elburn, Ill.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by in vitro propa-
gation since October 2008 in West Chicago, Ill. has demon-
strated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of
the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and
retained through successive generations of such asexual
propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been
repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish ‘Balso-
menco’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea* plant:

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1. Dark red-orange colored inflorescences;
2. Medium green-colored foliage; and
3. Moderately vigorous, compact-upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
and possible male parents primarily in having wider ray flo-
rets, and in having a better branched habit.

Of the many commercially available *Echinacea* cultivars,
the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Tanger-
ine Dream’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 21,773. However, in com-
parison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Tan-
gerine Dream’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have shorter ray florets than
plants of ‘Tangerine Dream’;
2. Plants of the new cultivar have fewer ray florets than
plants of ‘Tangerine Dream’; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar are shorter than plants of
‘Tangerine Dream’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is
reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of
this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new
cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the
color values cited in the detailed description, which accu-
rately describes the colors of ‘Balsomenco’. The plants were
grown in one gallon containers for 12 weeks in a greenhouse
in Elburn, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of ‘Balsomenco’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual inflores-
cence of ‘Balsomenco’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the

environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in August 2013 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from in vitro plantlets and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse in one-gallon containers under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in one-gallon containers for 12 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Echinacea*×*hybrida* cultivar Balsomenco.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Echinacea*×*hybrida* breeding selection coded E30-2, U.S. Pat. No. 7,982,110.

Male parent.—Bulk pollen mix of 7 proprietary breeding selections coded E30-1 through E30-7, U.S. Pat. No. 7,982,110.

Propagation:

Type.—In vitro propagation is preferred, divisions are possible.

Time to initiate roots in vitro.—Approximately 30 days at 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted plantlet in summer.—Approximately 30 days at 18° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; grey to light brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderate density, moderate branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 18 weeks from a rooted tissue culture plantlet to finish in a 1 gallon container.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Compact-upright, herbaceous perennial.

Growth rate.—Moderately vigorous.

Outdoor plant performance.—Use as bedding plants or in mixed-container plantings; at least tolerant to temperatures up to 35° C. and hardy to USDA zone 4.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 48.0 cm. Width: Approximately 44.5 cm.

Branching habit.—No lateral branching, flowering stems grow from base. Quantity of main stems per plant: Approximately 8.

Stems.—Strength: Very strong. Aspect: Nearly erect. Shape: Rounded. Length to base of inflorescence: Approximately 31.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 5.5 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent with short strigose hairs. Color of young and mature stems: 144A to 144B occasionally with an overlay of 187A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Perpendicular to stem, subtending with age. Shape: Narrowly ovate to lanceolate. Margin: Entire, slightly undulate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 10.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 4.1 cm. Texture of upper surface: Dull, moderately pubescent with short strigose hairs. Texture of lower surface: Moderately pubescent with short strigose hairs. Color of upper surface of young and mature foliage: Closest 137A with venation of 147C. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to 138B with venation of 147D.

Petiole.—Shape: V-shaped. Length: Approximately 6.3 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Glossy, sparsely covered with very short strigose hairs. Color of upper and lower surfaces: 147D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Balsomenco’ is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions blooming from spring through autumn and with limited flowering under short winter days in a greenhouse environment.

Lastingness of individual inflorescence on the plant.—Approximately 3 weeks.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Solitary, composite. Persistent. Shape: Conical. Aspect: Facing upward. Arrangement: Terminal, held upright on strong peduncles. Fragrance: Faintly sweet. Quantity per plant: Approximately 12. Height: Approximately 4.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 7.5 cm.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect to approximately 45° from vertical. Length: Approximately 11.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with short strigose hairs. Color: 144A to 144B occasionally with an overlay of 187A.

Bud.—Quantity per plant: Approximately 8. Shape: Flattened globular with immature ray florets nearly erect. Length: Approximately 1.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.9 cm. Color: Outer ray florets of 10B tinted with 60C and with a bud center of 143A.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 15. Arrangement: In a single whorl. Aspect: Perpendicular to disc, subtending with age. Shape: Elliptic to narrowly obovate. Appearance: Dull. Margin: Entire. Apex: Emarginate to notched. Base: Attenuate. Length: Approximately 3.3 cm. Width: Approximately 1.3 cm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous, ribbed longitudinally. Texture of lower surface: Sparsely pubescent, ribbed longitudinally. Color of upper surface when first open: N25A to N25B with base of 46B. Color of lower surface when first open: 10D with an overlay of 60C. Color of upper surface when fully open: N25A with an overlay of N34A base of 46A. Color of lower surface when fully open: 155D with an overlay of 60C.

Disc florets.—Disc diameter: Approximately 3.5 cm. Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 270. Arrangement: Spirally arranged in center of inflorescence. Shape: Tubular. Margin of free portion: Entire. Apex: Five acute tips. Base: Fused into a tube. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color of upper or inner surface when first and fully open: 144B with tips of 183C. Color of lower or outer surface when first

and fully open: Tips of 183C, mid-section of 144A to 144B tinted with 183C, and base of 145D.

Receptacle.—Shape: Conical. Height: Approximately 1.2 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.4 cm. Color: 155D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence Approximately 40. Arrangement: In three whorls. Appearance: Dull, stiff. Shape: Narrowly ovate to lanceolate, strongly curved towards the peduncle. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Length: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 to 3.0 mm. Texture of upper or inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower or outer surface: Moderately pubescent with short strigose hairs. Color of upper surface: 137A. Color of lower surface: 137B.

Receptacle spines.—Number of spines per disc: Approximately 270. Shape: Acicular. Length: Approximately 1.3 cm. Width at widest point: Approximately 2.0 mm. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Apex of 167B with 187C, mid-section of 144A and base of 145D.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen quantity: 5 per floret. Anther shape: Oblong, basifixed. Anther length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Anther color: Closest to N186A. Filament length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Filament color: 145D. Pollen amount: Moderate to abundant. Pollen color: 13A. Gynoecium: Present on disc florets only. Pistil quantity: 1 per floret. Pistil length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Stigma shape: Bifid. Stigma color: 187A. Style length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Style color: 144D. Ovary length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Ovary color: 145D.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

15 Disease and pest resistance: No particular resistance or susceptibility to other diseases or insects noted to date.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Echinacea* plant named 'Balsomenco' substantially as herein illustrated and 20 described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2