



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP25,524 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 5, 2015**

- (54) **HELIOPSIS PLANT NAMED ‘SUNSTRUCK’**
- (50) Latin Name: *Heliopsis helianthoides*
Varietal Denomination: **Sunstruck**
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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 92 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: **13/987,854**
- (22) Filed: **Sep. 9, 2013**

- (51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/02 (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./437**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A01H 5/025; A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00
USPC Plt./437
See application file for complete search history.

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- (57) **ABSTRACT**
- A new and distinct cultivar of *Heliopsis* plant named ‘Sunstruck’, characterized by its single-type, golden-yellow colored inflorescences, green and white variegated foliage, and moderately vigorous, compact-mounded growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Heliopsis helianthoides*.
Variety denomination: ‘Sunstruck’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Heliopsis* plant botanically known as *Heliopsis helianthoides* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Sunstruck’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Elburn, Ill. during July 2009. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Heliopsis* cultivars having large inflorescences, novel foliage color, and compact habits.

The new *Heliopsis* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Heliopsis helianthoides* breeding selection coded 3652-C5, not patented, characterized by its semi-double type, medium golden-yellow colored inflorescences, medium green and white variegated foliage, low vigor, and compact-mounded growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Heliopsis helianthoides* breeding selection coded 3649-A2, not patented, characterized by its anemone-type, dark golden-yellow colored inflorescences, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, 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 July 2010 in a controlled environment in Elburn, Ill.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since July 2010 in Elburn, Ill. has demonstrated 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 ‘Sunstruck’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Heliopsis* plant:

2

1. Single-type, golden-yellow colored inflorescences;
 2. Green and white variegated foliage; and
 3. Moderately vigorous, compact-mounded growth habit.
- Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in flower type and in having larger-sized inflorescences. Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the male parent primarily in foliage color and growth habit.
- Of the many commercially available *Heliopsis* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Lorraine Sunshine’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,690. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Lorraine Sunshine’ in at least the following characteristics:
1. Plants of the new cultivar are more compact than, as measured by plant height and plant width, than plants of ‘Lorraine Sunshine’;
 2. Plants of the new cultivar have more ray florets than plants of ‘Lorraine Sunshine’; and
 3. Plants of the new cultivar have a ray floret color that is more orange-colored than plants of ‘Lorraine Sunshine’.
- In addition the new cultivar can be compared to ‘Summer Green’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,410. However, in comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Summer Green’ in at least the following characteristics:
1. Plants of the new cultivar have a different stem color than plants of ‘Summer Green’;
 2. Plants of the new cultivar have more ray florets than plants of ‘Summer Green’; and
 3. Plants of the new cultivar have a ray floret color that is more orange-colored than plants of ‘Summer Green’.

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 accurately describes the colors of ‘Sunstruck’. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in 1-gallon containers for approximately 36 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. This time period

includes an approximately 12 week dormant period. Plants were pinched at time of transplant and again after 4 weeks of growth.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Sunstruck'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual inflorescence of 'Sunstruck'.

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 June 2013 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in 1-gallon containers for approximately 36 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. This time period includes an approximately 12 week dormant period. Plants were pinched at time of transplant and again after 4 weeks of growth. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 50° F. to 70° F. (10.0° C. to 21.1° C.) during the day and approximately 35° F. to 50° F. (1.7° C. to 10.0° C.) during the night. No supplemental lighting was provided. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Heliopsis helianthoides* cultivar Sunstruck.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Heliopsis helianthoides* breeding selection coded 3652-C5, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Heliopsis helianthoides* breeding selection coded 3649-A2, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 7 to 10 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 28 to 35 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 10 to 12 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 10 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, compact-mounded.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 30.0 cm. Width: Approximately 33.5 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching, pinching enhances basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 5.

Branch.—Strength: Strong, somewhat flexible. Length: Approximately 27.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately

2.5 cm. Texture: Sparsely pubescent. Color of young stem: 146C. Color of mature stem: 146C with an overlay of N186C.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Approximately 16. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Aspect: Petiole is at an acute angle to stem blade is primarily perpendicular to stem. Shape: Ovate. Margin: Serrate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 7.0 cm. Width of mature leaf: 4.3 cm. Texture of upper surface: Moderately pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Moderately pubescent, densely pubescent on venation. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 155A with an overlay and venation of N137A. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 155A with an overlay and venation of N137C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 155A with an overlay and venation of N137A, overlay becomes heavier with age. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 155A with an overlay and venation of N137C, overlay becomes heavier with age.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 1.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.5 mm. Texture: Moderately pubescent. Color: 155A with an overlay of N137C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Sunstruck' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from early spring through summer.

Lastingness of individual inflorescence on the plant.—Approximately 4 weeks.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Daisy-type composite, actinomorphic. Persistent. Shape: Round. Aspect: Upward and outward facing. Arrangement: Terminal capitulum, positioned above the foliage. Quantity per plant: Approximately 9. Diameter: Approximately 6.0 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.5 cm. Fragrance: Slight.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong, somewhat flexible. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 5.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: 146C.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 5 to 7 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower. Quantity per plant: Approximately 3.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Flattened globular. Diameter: Approximately 1.0 cm. Color: 144C.

Ray florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 21 to 23. Appearance: Dull. Arrangement: Imbricate in a single whorl. Aspect: Initially at acute angle to disc, becoming perpendicular with age. Shape: Oblanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Three acute tips. Base: Attenuate. Length: Approximately 3.0 cm. Width: Approximately 9.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous, ribbed longitudinally. Color of upper surface when first open: 23A. Color of lower surface when first open: 15B. Color of upper surface when fully open: 21B, transitioning to 14A with age. Color of lower surface when fully open: 15B, transitioning to 14C with age.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: Approximately 135. Arrangement: Massed in center of inflorescence. Shape: Tubular. Margin: Entire. Apex: Five

acute tips. Base: Fused. Length: Approximately 1.0 cm. Diameter at apex: Approximately 2.0 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color when fully open: 23A at tips, centers of 1B and NN155A at base.

Disc.—Diameter: Approximately 1.8 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.5 cm.

Receptacle.—Shape: Conical. Height: Approximately 5.0 mm. Diameter at base: Approximately 7.0 mm. Color: 155C.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence Approximately 19. Arrangement: In two whorls. Shape: Linear. Margin: Entire. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Truncate. Length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Moderately pubescent. Color of upper and lower surfaces: N137A with base of 143C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Stamen quantity: 5.0. Stamen length:

Approximately 6.0 mm. Anther shape: Linear. Anther length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Anther color: Closest to 203B. Filament color: 155D. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: 23A. Gynoecium: Present on ray and disc florets. Pistil quantity: 1 per floret. Pistil length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Stigma shape: Bifid. Stigma length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Stigma color: 23A. Style length: Approximately 3.0 mm. Style color: Between 150C and 150D. Ovary length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Ovary color: NN155A.

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

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Heliopsis* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Heliopsis* plant named ‘Sunstruck’, substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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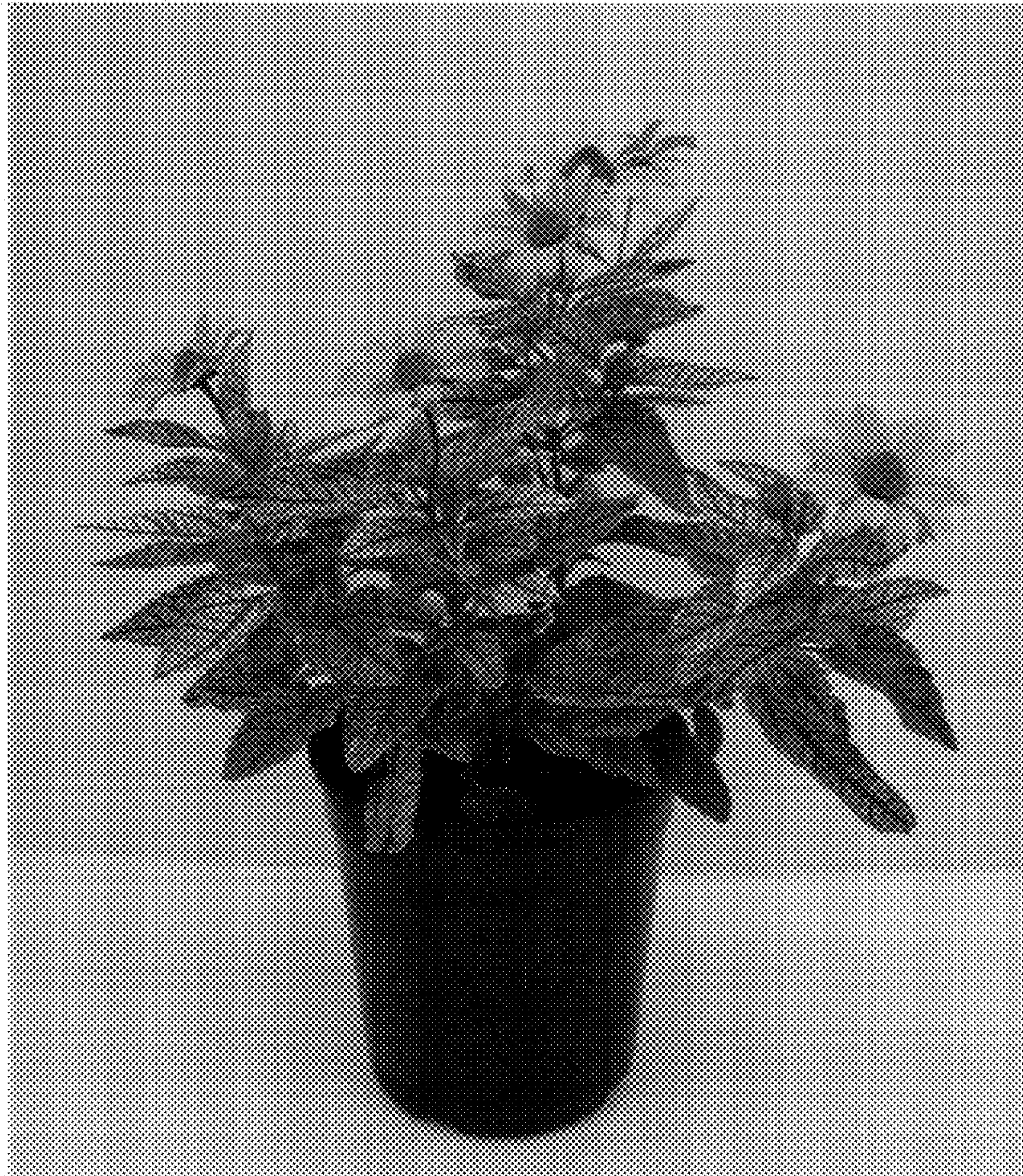


FIG. 1



FIG. 2