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Larsen

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(54) ***OSTEOSPERMUM* PLANT NAMED 'SUNOST1302'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Osteospermum ecklonis***
Varietal Denomination: **Sunost1302**

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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 225 days.

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A01H 5/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./360**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./360
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV, PLUTO: Plant Variety Database, UPOV hit QZ PBR 39529, published Aug. 16, 2013.*

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunost1302', characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; freely branching growth habit; freely flowering habit; large daisy-type inflorescences with purple and red purple-colored ray florets; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

Botanical designation: *Osteospermum ecklonis*.
Cultivar denomination: 'SUNOST1302'.

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 'Sunost1302'.

The new *Osteospermum* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Odense, Denmark. The objective of the program is to create and develop new *Osteospermum* plants with compact and uniformly mounded plant habit, freely flowering habit and attractive ray and disc floret coloration.

The new *Osteospermum* plant originated from a cross-pollination by the Inventor in May, 2009 of a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 07.50.014, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 08.22.004, 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 Odense, Denmark in May, 2010.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Osteospermum* plant by terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Odense, Denmark since November, 2010 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 and cultural

practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions 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 'Sunost1302'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Sunost1302' as a new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant:

1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Large daisy-type inflorescences with purple and red purple-colored ray florets.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are not as upright as plants of the female parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the female parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the female parent selection have purple-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* differ primarily from plants of the male parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are more compact than plants of the male parent selection.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* are not as upright as plants of the male parent selection.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and the male parent selection differ in ray floret color as plants of the male parent selection have red-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new *Osteospermum* can be compared to plants of the *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunost1202', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Odense, Denmark, plants of the new *Osteospermum* differed from plants of 'Sunost1202' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were more compact than plants of 'Sunost1202'.
2. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* were not as upright as plants of 'Sunost1202'.
3. Plants of the new *Osteospermum* and 'Sunost1202' differed in ray floret color as plants of 'Sunost1202' had red-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate 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 photographs 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 on the first sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Sunost1302' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'Sunost1302'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs, following observations and measurements describe plants grown during early summer in 11-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Odense, Denmark and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Osteospermum* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 14° C. to 20° C. and night temperatures averaged 14° C. Plants were pinched one time and were 14 weeks old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Sunost1302'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 07.50.014, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Osteospermum ecklonis* identified as code number 08.22.004, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 12 days at temperatures about 18° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 14 days at temperatures about 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About 20 days at temperatures about 18° C. to 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About 28 days at temperatures about 18° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and mounding plant habit; inflorescences positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; moderately vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 18.9 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 27.6 cm.

Lateral branches.—Quantity per plant: Freely branching habit with about six primary lateral branches per plant; pinching enhances branching potential. Length: About 11.6 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 6 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Sparsely to moderately pubescent. Color: Close to 144B.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple; sessile. Length: About 5.9 cm. Width: About 3.5 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Narrowly attenuate. Margin: Pinnatifid. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Sparsely to moderately glandular pubescence; rough. Venation pattern: Pinnate, arcuate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 143B to 143C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N137B; venation, close to 143A to 143B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Between 138A and 147B; venation, close to 144C.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance.—Daisy-type inflorescence form with oblanceolate-shaped ray florets; inflorescences terminal and axillary and positioned above and beyond the foliar plane on strong peduncles; disc and ray florets developing acropetally on a capitulum; inflorescences face mostly upright to slightly outwardly.

Flowering habit.—Freely flowering habit with about 30 inflorescences developing per plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—In Denmark, plants of the new *Osteospermum* flower continuously from spring to late summer; early flowering habit, plants begin flowering about eight to ten weeks after pinching.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences of plants of the new *Osteospermum* last about two weeks on the plant; inflorescences not persistent.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovate. Color: Close to 137B to 137C; towards the apex, close to 174B.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 5.2 cm. Depth (height): About 1.6 cm. Disc diameter: About 1.3 cm. Receptacle diameter: About 2.2 cm. Receptacle height: About 7 mm.

Ray florets.—Length: About 2.4 cm. Width: About 7 mm. Shape: Oblanceolate. Apex: Praemorse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Texture, lower surface: Mostly smooth, glabrous; towards the base, pubescent. Number of ray florets per inflorescence: About 24 arranged in two whorls. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to N79C; towards the apex, close to 59B. When opening, lower surface: Close to 185A; venation, close to N186C. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to N79C; towards the apex, close to 58A; color becoming closer to between N77A and N79A with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 185A; venation, close to N186C.

Disc florets.—Shape: Tubular; apex dentate, five-pointed. Length: About 8 mm. Diameter, apex: About 4 mm. Diameter, base: About 1 mm. Number of disc florets per inflorescence: About 80. Color, immature: Apex: Close to N77C. Mid-section: Close to 156C to 156D. Base: Close to N77C. Color, mature: Apex: Close to 70D. Mid-section: Close to 156D. Base: Close to 70D.

Phyllaries.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 22 arranged in two whorls. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Narrowly acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Sparsely pubescent. Color, upper surface: Close to 147B; margins, close to 147D. Color, lower surface: Close to 137C; margins, close to 137D.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 4.2 cm. Length, fourth peduncle: About 3.9 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Aspect, terminal peduncles: Mostly upright. Aspect, axillary peduncles: About 30° from stem axis. Texture: Sparsely to moderately pubescent. Color: Close to 144B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Present on disc florets only. Anther shape: Lanceolate. Anther length: About 6 mm. Anther color: Close to 203B. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 17B. Gynoecium: Present on both ray and disc florets. Pistil length: About 6 mm. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: Close to N186C. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: Close to 75D. Ovary color: Close to 145D.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit development has 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 *Osteospermum* plants.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Osteospermum* have been observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind, high temperatures about 40° C. and to be hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 9.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Osteospermum* plant named 'Sunost1302' as illustrated and described.

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