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Jacobs

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(54) **ASTER PLANT NAMED ‘ZANASLISU’**

(50) Latin Name: *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*
Varietal Denomination: **Zanaslisu**

(71) Applicant: **Henricus Cornelius Maria Jacobs,**
Bleiswijk (NL)

(72) Inventor: **Henricus Cornelius Maria Jacobs,**
Bleiswijk (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Chrysanthemum Breeders Association**
Research B.V., Rijsenhout (NL)

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/02 (2018.01)

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USPC **Plt./355**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./355
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

Royal Van Zanten Royal Collection Pot & Bedding 2015 retrieved
on Aug. 8, 2017, retrieved from the Internet at http://www.aaa-flowers.ru/files/uploads/rvz_catalogus_2015_lr_v5.pdf, 5 pages
total including pp. 3, 7, and 60.*

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — June Hwu

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Aster plant named ‘Zanaslisu’,
characterized by its compact, upright to slightly spreading
and mounding plant habit; moderately vigorous growth
habit; freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy
appearance; freely flowering habit; double-type inflores-
cences with light violet blue-colored ray florets; good post-
production longevity and good container performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘ZANASLISU’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of Aster plant, botanically known as *Symphyotrichum novi-*
belgii and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Zanaslisu’.

The new Aster plant is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Rijsenhout, The
Netherlands. The objective of the breeding program is to
create new compact Aster plants with freely branching habit
and attractive double-type inflorescences.

The new Aster originated from an open-pollination in
September, 2012 in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands of a pro-
prietary selection of *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii* identified
as code number 1175, not patented, as the female, or seed,
parent with an unknown selection of *Symphyotrichum novi-*
belgii as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Aster plant was
discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering
plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a
controlled greenhouse environment in Rijsenhout, The
Netherlands in April, 2013.

Asexual reproduction of the new Aster plant by terminal
vegetative cuttings was first conducted in Rijsenhout, The
Netherlands in May, 2013. Asexual reproduction by cuttings
has shown that the unique features of this new Aster plant
are stable and reproduced true to type in successive genera-
tions.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new Aster have not been observed under all
possible combinations of environmental conditions and cul-
tural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with
variations in environmental conditions such as temperature,
daylength and light intensity, without, however, any vari-
ance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
are determined to be the unique characteristics of
‘Zanaslisu’. These characteristics in combination distinguish
‘Zanaslisu’ as a new and distinct Aster plant:

1. Compact, upright to slightly spreading and mounding
plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy
appearance.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Double-type inflorescences with light violet blue-col-
ored ray florets.
6. Good postproduction longevity and good container
performance.

Plants of the new Aster differ primarily from plants of the
female parent selection in the ray floret color as plants of the
female parent selection have white-colored ray florets.

Plants of the new Aster can be compared to plants of
Symphyotrichum novi-belgii ‘Dasgra’, disclosed in U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 23,828. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of
the new Aster differ from plants of ‘Dasgra’ in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Aster are more freely flowering than plants of 'Dasgra'.
2. Plants of the new Aster and 'Dasgra' differ in ray floret color as plants of 'Dasgra' have dark violet-colored ray florets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new Aster 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 Aster plant.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Zanaslisu' grown in a container.

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

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the autumn in 12-cm containers in a glass-covered greenhouse in Rijsenhout, The Netherlands and under cultural practices typical of commercial Aster production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18.5° C. to 22° C., night temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 21° C. and light levels ranged from 3,500 to 7,000 lux. Plants were pinched one time and were ten weeks old when the photographs 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: *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii* 'Zanaslisu'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii* identified as code number 1175, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About seven days at temperatures about 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About nine to ten days at temperatures about 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, autumn.—About eleven to twelve days at temperatures about 21° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; close to 155D and 199D in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous double-type potted Aster plant; compact, upright to slightly spreading and mounding plant habit; moderately vigorous growth habit; freely branching growth habit; dense and bushy appearance; about four primary branches each with about two to three secondary laterals developing per plant, pinching enhances branching potential.

Plant height.—About 23 cm to 25 cm.

Plant width.—About 25 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10 cm to 11 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 cm. Internode length: About 3 mm to 4 mm. Aspect: About 35° to 40° from vertical. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Luster: Semi-glossy. Color, developing: Close to 141C. Color, developed: Close to 138B; at the internodes, close to 138C.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple; sessile.

Length.—About 4.8 cm to 5.2 cm.

Width.—About 8 mm to 10 mm.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptic.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous.

Luster, upper and lower surfaces.—Semi-glossy.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A; venation, close to 147D. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A; venation, 148D.

Inflorescence description:

Type and arrangement.—Double-type (or decorative) inflorescence form with lanceolate-shaped ray florets; inflorescences borne on terminal and axillary branches above and beyond the foliar plane; ray florets arranged acropetally on a capitulum.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Flowering response.—Under natural conditions, plants flower during the autumn in The Netherlands; plants begin flowering about six weeks after planting.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences maintain good substance for about four weeks on the plant; inflorescences persistent.

Quantity of inflorescences.—Freely flowering habit with about five to six inflorescences per lateral branch.

Inflorescence buds.—Height: About 9 mm. Diameter: About 5 mm to 6 mm. Shape: Globular. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Luster: Semi-glossy. Color: Close to 145D.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 3.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1.5 cm. Diameter of disc: Disc florets not observed on plants of the new Aster.

Receptacles.—Height: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Conical. Color: Close to 138D.

Ray florets.—Quantity and arrangement: About 100 to 110 arranged in about seven to eight whorls. Length: About 1.5 cm to 1.8 cm. Width: About 2.5 mm to 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Luster, upper and lower surfaces: Moderately glossy. Orientation: Initially upright to semi-upright to eventually close to perpendicular to the peduncle. Color: When opening, upper surface: Close to 91C. When opening, lower surface: Close to 84D. Fully opened, upper surface: Close to 91B; color becoming closer to 91C with development. Fully opened, lower surface: Close to 84D; color becoming closer to 85D with development.

Phyllaries.—Quantity and arrangement: About 45 per inflorescence arranged in about four whorls. Length:

About 3 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Narrowly elliptic. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Luster, upper and lower surfaces: Semiglossy. Color, upper surface: Close to 137A. Color, lower surface: Close to 138A.

Peduncles.—Length, terminal peduncle: About 2 cm. Diameter, terminal peduncle: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Luster: Moderately glossy. Color: Close to 138B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Not observed on plants of the new Aster. Gynoecium: Quantity of pistils per floret: One. Pistil length: About 6 mm. Stigma diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Stigma shape: Bifurcate. Stigma color: Close to 154D. Style

length: About 3 mm. Style color: Close to 145D. Ovary color: Close to 145D.

Seeds and fruits.—Seed and fruit production have not been observed on plants of the new Aster.

5 Disease & pest resistance: Plants of the new Aster have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Aster plants.

10 Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Aster have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 5° C. to about 32° C. to 33° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Aster plant named 'Zanaslisu' as illustrated and described.

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