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(54) *LEUCANTHEMUM* PLANT NAMED ‘LEMON MERINGUE’

(50) Latin Name: *Leucanthemum x superbum*
Varietal Denomination: **Lemon Meringue**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct *Leucanthemum* plant having double,
daisy-type inflorescences, yellow inflorescence buds and
young ray florets, and medium-sized fully open inflores-
cences displaying numerous white ray florets.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Leucanthemum x superbum*.
Varietal denomination: ‘Lemon Meringue’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention is a new and distinct *Leucanthe-
mum* plant having the varietal name ‘Lemon Meringue’.
Leucanthemum is in the family Asteraceae . ‘Lemon
Meringue’ originated from a controlled cross between
unnamed, unpatented, and proprietary *Leucanthemum x*
superbum seedlings at a nursery in Canby, Oregon.

Compared to *Leucanthemum* plant named ‘Bridal Bou-
quet’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP24,260), the new cultivar
exhibits more double flowering with yellow coloration when
young and has a slightly larger habit. Compared to *Leucan-
themum* plant named ‘Macaroon’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP26,
905), the new cultivar is taller and has smaller flowers.
Further, when compared to *Leucanthemum* plant named
‘Goldfinch’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. PP24,499), the new cultivar
is shorter with flowers that shift from yellow to white as they
age.

The new variety has only been reproduced by asexual
propagation (division and tissue culture). Each of the prog-
eny exhibits identical characteristics to the original plant.
Asexual propagation by division and tissue culture using
standard micropropagation techniques with terminal and
lateral shoots performed in Canby, Oregon shows that the
characteristics and distinctions described herein 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.

When compared to other *Leucanthemum* plants known to
the breeder, the new variety is characterized by the follow-
ing:

1. Double, daisy-type inflorescences;
2. Yellow inflorescence buds and young ray florets;

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3. Fully open inflorescences are medium in size and
display numerous white ray florets around a yellow-
gold disc;
4. Ray florets are linear with lacerated tips giving a more
frilled appearance to the inflorescence;
5. Excellent bloom number and excellent rebloom;
6. Medium compact habit, and
7. Excellent vigor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawings illustrate the
new variety, with the colors being as nearly true as possible
with color illustrations of this type:
FIG. 1 illustrates a close-up view of a 9-month-old plant
of the new variety in Canby, Oregon in July; and
FIG. 2 illustrates 8-month-old plants of the new variety in
Canby, Oregon in mid-June.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the new variety
based on observations of 10-month-old plants that were
grown outside in a field under full sun in Canby, Oregon
(USDA Zone 8). Temperatures range from a high of 35° C.
in August to a low of 0° C. in January. Normal rainfall in
Canby, Oregon is around 1 m per year. Color references are
based on the 2007 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal
Horticultural Society of London, 5th Edition.
Plant:

- Type*.—Herbaceous perennial.
Hardiness.—USDA Zones 5 to 9.
Size.—48.0 cm wide and 39.0 cm tall from the top of
the soil to the top of the inflorescences.
Form.—Basal clump.
Number of crowns.—About 56.
Vigor.—High.
Flowering stems:
Type.—Ascending strongly upright and thick.
Number.—About 56 stems from the crown.
Inflorescences per stem.—From 1 to 3.

- Size*.—About 39.0 cm tall to a terminal inflorescence and 10.0 cm wide at the base.
- Number of leaves per stem*.—Up to 18, with oldest leaves senescent.
- Strength*.—High. 5
- Internode length*.—From 1.0 cm to 3.0 cm.
- Texture*.—Pubescent.
- Color*.—RHS 136B.
- Leaf:
- Type*.—Simple. 10
- Arrangement*.—Alternate.
- Shape*.—Lanceolate.
- Length*.—To 7.5 cm.
- Width*.—To 1.75 cm.
- Margin*.—Coarsely serrate.
- Apex*.—Acute.
- Base*.—Clasping.
- Texture*.—Pubescent on both sides.
- Venation*.—Pinnate.
- Upper surface color*.—RHS 137B, with a main vein of 20
RHS 147C.
- Lower surface color*.—RHS 137D, with a main vein of
RHS 147D.
- Petiole*.—Sessile. 25
- Inflorescence:
- Type*.—Composite, on terminal stalked heads.
- Flower number*.—About 90 per plant.
- Density*.—High.
- Width*.—To 9.0 cm.
- Depth*.—2.0 cm. 30
- Form*.—Ray florets hold upright when young, lower ray florets reflex down with maturity, and a mature disc is slightly convex.
- Bloom period*.—June through July in Canby, Oregon.
- Lastingness on the plant*.—About 3 weeks in Canby, 35
Oregon.
- Fragrance*.—Slight to none.
- Fertility*.—Low.
- Flower bud (immature inflorescence):
- Form*.—Ray florets held upwards and inner rays 40
cupped inwards.
- Width*.—2.0 cm.
- Depth*.—1.2 cm.
- Color*.—RHS 8B.
- Ray florets:
- Number*.—About 90.
- Shape*.—Obelliptic to linear, with from 3 to 5 clefts.
- Length*.—2.5 cm.
- Width*.—0.5 to 0.75 cm.
- Apex*.—Retuse.
- Base*.—Attenuate.
- Margin*.—Entire.
- Texture*.—Glabrous.
- Color (both surfaces)*.—RHS 8B when young, chang-
ing to RHS NN155B.
- Claw*.—To 2.5 mm long and 1.0 mm wide; RHS 150D.
- Pistil*.—1; 3.0 mm long.
- Stamen*.—None.
- Ovary*.—1.0 mm long; RHS 145D.
- Style*.—1.0 mm long; RHS 145C.
- Stigma*.—2-branched; 0.5 mm long; RHS 14B.
- 15 Disc/disc florets:
- Disc*.—Shape: Slightly conic, becoming convex.
Depth: Tp 13.0 mm. Width: To 18.0 mm. Color: RHS
15B.
- Disc florets*.—Number: About 300. Shape: 5-lobed,
tubular campanulate corolla. Length: 4.0 mm. Width:
1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Emerging color: RHS
17B on the top half and RHS 145D on the bottom
half. Mature color: RHS NN155A. Pistil: 1; 7.0 mm
long. Ovary: 1.0 mm long; RHS 145D. Style: 2.0
mm long; RHS 160B. Stigma: 2-branched; 0.5 mm
long; RHS 157C. Stamen: 5; 3.0 mm long. Filament:
1.0 mm long; RHS 150D. Anther: 3.0 mm; RHS
17B. Pollen: None.
- Involucral bracts:
- Number*.—About 30 in 3 imbricate whorls. 30
- Area*.—2.5 cm wide and 10.0 mm deep.
- Lobes*.—Shape: Lanceloate to ovate. Length: 5.0 mm.
Width: 6.0 mm. Color: RHS 137B. Margin: Thin;
somewhat transparent; RHS 186C. Apex: Acute.
Texture: Glabrous.
- 35 Receptacle:
- Length*.—17.0 mm.
- Depth*.—4.0 mm.
- Color*.—RHS 149D.
- 40 Seeds: None.
- Pests/diseases: No unusual resistance or susceptibility noted
to date.
- I claim:
1. A new and distinct variety of *Leucanthemum* plant
45 named 'Lemon Meringue', substantially as illustrated and
described herein.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2