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- (54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT VARIETY NAMED ‘DRISSTRAWSEXTYFOUR’**
- (50) Latin Name: *Fragaria x ananassa*
Varietal Denomination: **DrisStrawSixtyFour**
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- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
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CPC *A01H 6/74* (2018.05); *A01H 5/08* (2013.01)
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of strawberry plant named ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’, particularly characterized by its fruit size and shape, overall productivity and minimal gaps in production, excellent flavor, texture, and juiciness of the fruit, consistency of eating quality throughout season, plant vigor and health, plant architecture, and long and sturdy fruit stems, is disclosed.

4 Drawing Sheets

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STRAWBERRY PLANT VARIETY NAMED 'DRISSTRAWSEXTYFOUR'

Latin name: Botanical classification: *Fragaria x anan-*
assa.

Varietal denomination: The varietal denomination of the
claimed variety of strawberry plant is 'DrisStrawSixtyFour'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cultivated strawberry is a hybrid species of the genus
Fragaria that is grown worldwide for its fruit. Modern
strawberry was first bred in Brittany, France, in the 18th
century by crossing *Fragaria virginiana* with *Fragaria*
chiloensis. Strawberry fruit is an aggregate accessory fruit,
with the fleshy part of the fruit being derived from the
receptacle that holds the ovaries.

Strawberry varieties vary widely in color, size, shape,
flavor, season of ripening, degree of fertility, and suscepti-
bility to disease. Certain varieties vary in foliage, and some
vary in the relative development of their reproductive
organs. Typically, strawberry flowers appear hermaphroditic
in structure, but function as either male or female. Generally,
commercial production of strawberry plants involves propa-
gation from runners and distribution as either plugs or bare
root plants. Cultivation is either perennial or annual plasti-
culture. During the off season, strawberries can also be
produced in greenhouses.

Strawberry fruit is widely appreciated for its characteristic
bright red color, aroma, juicy texture, and sweetness. Straw-
berry fruit is a popular fruit that is generally consumed either
fresh or in prepared foods, such as preserves and baked
goods.

Strawberry is an important and valuable fruit crop.
Accordingly, there is a need for new varieties of strawberry
plants. In particular, there is a need for improved varieties of
strawberry plant that are stable, high yielding, and agro-
nomically sound.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In order to meet these needs, the present invention is
directed to an improved variety of strawberry plant. In
particular, the invention relates to a new and distinct variety
of strawberry plant (*Fragaria x ananassa*), which has been
denominated as 'DrisStrawSixtyFour'.

Strawberry plant variety 'DrisStrawSixtyFour' was dis-
covered in Hillsborough County, Fla. in January of 2012,
and originated from a cross between the proprietary female
parent 'DrisStrawForty' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,747) and the
proprietary male parent 'DrisStrawTwentyThree' (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 23,401). A single plant was selected and
asexually propagated via stolons in Shasta County, Calif.

'DrisStrawSixtyFour' was subsequently asexually propa-
gated via stolons, and underwent further testing at a farm in
Hillsborough County, Fla. for six years (2011 to 2017). The
present variety has been found to be stable and reproduce
true to type through successive asexual propagations via
stolons.

'DrisStrawSixtyFour' exhibits the following distinguish-
ing characteristics when grown under normal horticultural
practices in Hillsborough County, Fla.:

1. Late start of early production; and
2. Fruit having more blunt rather than pointed tips.

'DrisStrawSixtyFour' was selected for the size and shape
of its fruit; overall productivity and minimal gaps in pro-
duction; flavor, texture, and juiciness of its fruit; eating

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quality throughout season; its plant vigor and health; its
plant architecture; and its long and sturdy fruit stems.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new strawberry plant is illustrated by the accompa-
nying photographs which show fruit of the plant, as well as
the flowers and leaves. The colors shown are as true as can
be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic pro-
cedures. The photographs are of plants that are four months
old from time of transplant at nursery.

FIG. 1 illustrates whole fruit of variety 'DrisStrawSixty-
Four'.

FIG. 2 illustrates the upper and lower surfaces of flowers
of variety 'DrisStrawSixtyFour'.

FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B illustrate leaves of variety 'Dris-
StrawSixtyFour'.

FIG. 4 illustrates the overall plant habit including fruit at
various stages of development of variety 'DrisStrawSixty-
Four'.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinc-
tive characteristics of 'DrisStrawSixtyFour'. The data which
define these characteristics is based on observations taken in
Hillsborough County, Fla. from 2011 to 2017. This descrip-
tion is in accordance with UPOV terminology. Color desig-
nations, color descriptions, and other phenotypical
descriptions may deviate from the stated values and descrip-
tions depending upon variation in environmental, seasonal,
climatic, and cultural conditions. 'DrisStrawSixtyFour' has
not been observed under all possible environmental condi-
tions. The botanical description of 'DrisStrawSixtyFour'
was taken from plants that were four months old from time
of transplant at nursery. The indicated values represent
averages calculated from measurements of several plants.
Color references are primarily to The R.H.S. Colour Chart of
The Royal Horticultural Society of London (R.H.S.) (2007
edition). Descriptive terminology follows the *Plant Identifi-
cation Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary*, 2nd edition by
James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, unless where
otherwise defined.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

Classification:

Species.—*Fragaria x ananassa*.

Common name.—Strawberry.

Denomination.—'DrisStrawSixtyFour'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—The proprietary variety 'DrisStraw-
Forty' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,747).

Male parent.—The proprietary variety 'DrisStraw
TwentyThree' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,401).

Plant:

Height.—20.8 cm.

Diameter.—36.8 cm.

Number of crowns per plant.—4.

Growth habit.—Spreading.

Stolon:

Average number of daughter plants per square foot.—
11.

Diameter at bract.—3.68 mm.

Anthocyanin coloration.—Present.

Anthocyanin color.—RHS 80C (Light purple).

Leaf:

Number of leaflets.—Three only.
Color of upper surface.—RHS 147A (Moderate olive green).
Color of lower surface.—RHS 148A (Yellow-green).
Variation.—Absent.
Terminal Leaflets.—Length: 7.6 cm. Width: 7.8 cm. Length/width ratio: 1.0. Number of teeth/terminal leaflet: 22. Leaflet shape: Orbicular. Leaflet apex: Rounded. Shape of base: Rounded. Margin: Crenate. Shape in cross section: Concave.
Petiole.—Color of petiole: RHS 144B (Yellow-green). Length: 15.1 cm. Diameter: 4.13 mm. Attitude of hairs: Horizontal. Bract frequency (number present on each petiole): 0.
Petiolule.—Color of petiolule: RHS 145A (Yellow-green). Length: 14.40 mm. Diameter: 2.44 mm.
Stipule.—Length: 4.6 cm. Width: 10.50 mm. Anthocyanin coloration: Present. Anthocyanin color: RHS 58C (Strong pink).

Inflorescence:

Position in relation to foliage.—Above.
Pedicele.—Pedicele length: 19.3 cm. Pedicele diameter: 0.18 cm. Color of pedicele: RHS 149C (Brilliant yellowish green). Attitude of hairs: Upwards.
Flower.—Flower depth: 9.5 mm. Flower diameter (petal tip to petal tip on non-flattened flower): 24.61 mm. Arrangement of petals: Overlapping. Stamen: Present. Typical and observed number of flowers per plant: 7.9.
Petal.—Petal shape: Orbicular. Petal apex: Rounded. Petal margin: Entire (smooth). Petal base: Concave to convex. Length: 10.71 mm. Width: 11.45 mm. Length/width ratio: 0.9. Typical and observed petal number: 5. Color of upper side: RHS 155C (Greenish white). Color of lower side: RHS 155C (Greenish white).
Calyx.—Diameter (sepal tip to sepal tip, measured on back of flower): 37.22 mm.
Sepal.—Sepal shape: Oblong to oval. Sepal apex: Convex. Sepal margin: Entire (smooth). Color of upper side: RHS 144A (Strong yellowish green). Color of lower side: RHS 144D (Light yellowish green). Length (sepal tip to point of attachment to receptacle): 15.42 mm. Width: 8.62 mm. Typical and observed sepal number: 11.

Fruit:

Length.—42.24 mm.
Width.—38.86 mm.
Length/width ratio.—1.1.
Weight.—27.5 grams.
Fruit hollow length.—15.31 mm.
Fruit hollow width.—3.98 mm.
Fruit hollow length/width ratio.—3.8.
Shape.—Conical.
Color.—RHS 46A (Strong red).
Position of achenes.—Level with surface.
Color of achenes.—RHS 46A (Strong red).
Position of calyx attachment.—Inserted.
Attitude of sepals.—Outwards.
Color of flesh (excluding core).—RHS 46B (Vivid red).
Color of core.—RHS 42B (Strong reddish orange).

Fruiting truss:

Truss length.—19.3 cm.
Truss diameter at base.—0.18 cm.
Number of berries per truss.—1.
Color of truss.—RHS 144A (Dark green).

Production:

Flowering interval.—Late November to late March.
Harvest interval.—Early December to late March.
Type of bearing.—Partially remontant.
Productivity.—0.439 kg/plant to 0.889 kg/plant of fruit per season from 7-month-old plants when grown in Hillsborough County, Fla.
 Resistance to abiotic stress, pests, and diseases:
Heat.—Moderately resistant.
Two-spotted spider mite (Tetranychus urticae).—Moderately susceptible.
Broad mite (Polyphagotarsonemus latus).—Susceptible.
Botrytis fruit rot (Botrytis cinerea).—Susceptible.
Powdery mildew (Podosphaera macularis).—Moderately susceptible.
Anthracoze fruit rot (Colletotrichum acutatum).—Susceptible.
Anthracoze crown rot (Colletotrichum gloeosporioides).—Susceptible.
Charcoal rot (Macrophomina phaseolina).—Moderately resistant.
Angular leaf spot (Xanthomonas fragariae).—Moderately susceptible.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL AND COMMERCIAL VARIETIES

‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ differs from the proprietary female parent ‘DrisStrawForty’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 25,747) in that ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ produces fruit with more blunt rather than pointed tips compared to fruit of ‘DrisStrawForty’.

‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ differs from the proprietary male parent ‘DrisStrawTwentyThree’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,401) in that ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ produces fruit with more blunt rather than pointed tips compared to fruit of ‘DrisStrawTwentyThree’.

‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ differs from the commercial variety ‘DrisStrawTwentyFour’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 23,378) in that early production of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ begins about two weeks behind that of ‘DrisStrawTwentyFour’. Further, plants of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have inflorescence above foliage, while plants of ‘DrisStrawTwentyFour’ have inflorescence beneath foliage. Additionally, fruit of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have absent or a very narrow width of band without achenes, while fruit of ‘DrisStrawTwentyFour’ have a broad width of band without achenes. Moreover, fruit of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have a calyx attachment that is inserted in fruit, while fruit of ‘DrisStrawTwentyFour’ have a calyx attachment that is raised from fruit.

‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ differs from the commercial variety ‘DrisStrawFortyNine’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 27,682) in that early production of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ begins just after that of ‘DrisStrawFortyNine’. Further, plants of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have a spreading growth habit, while plants of ‘DrisStrawFortyNine’ have a semi-upright to spreading growth habit. Additionally, plants of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have strong vigor, while plants of ‘DrisStrawFortyNine’ have weak to medium vigor. Moreover, fruit of ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ have absent or a very narrow width of band without achenes, while fruit of ‘DrisStrawFortyNine’ have a broad width of band without achenes.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of strawberry plant named ‘DrisStrawSixtyFour’ as shown and described herein.

* * * * *

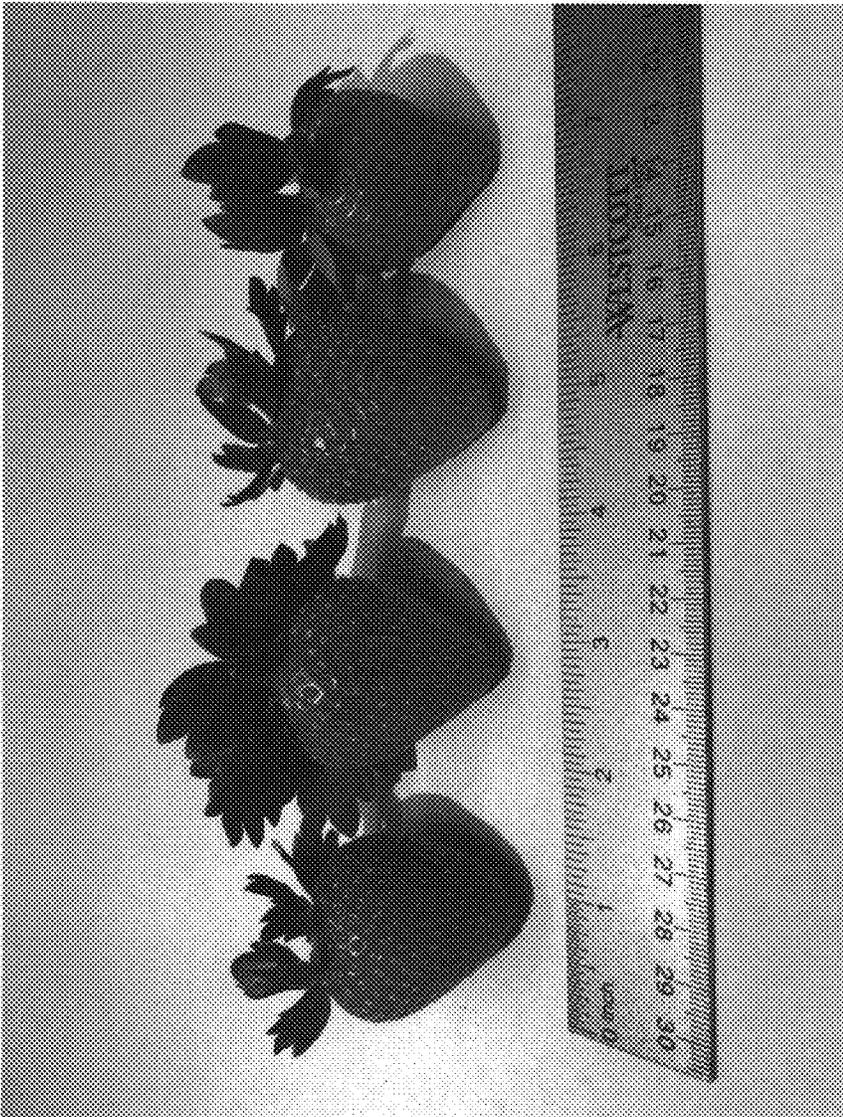


FIG. 1

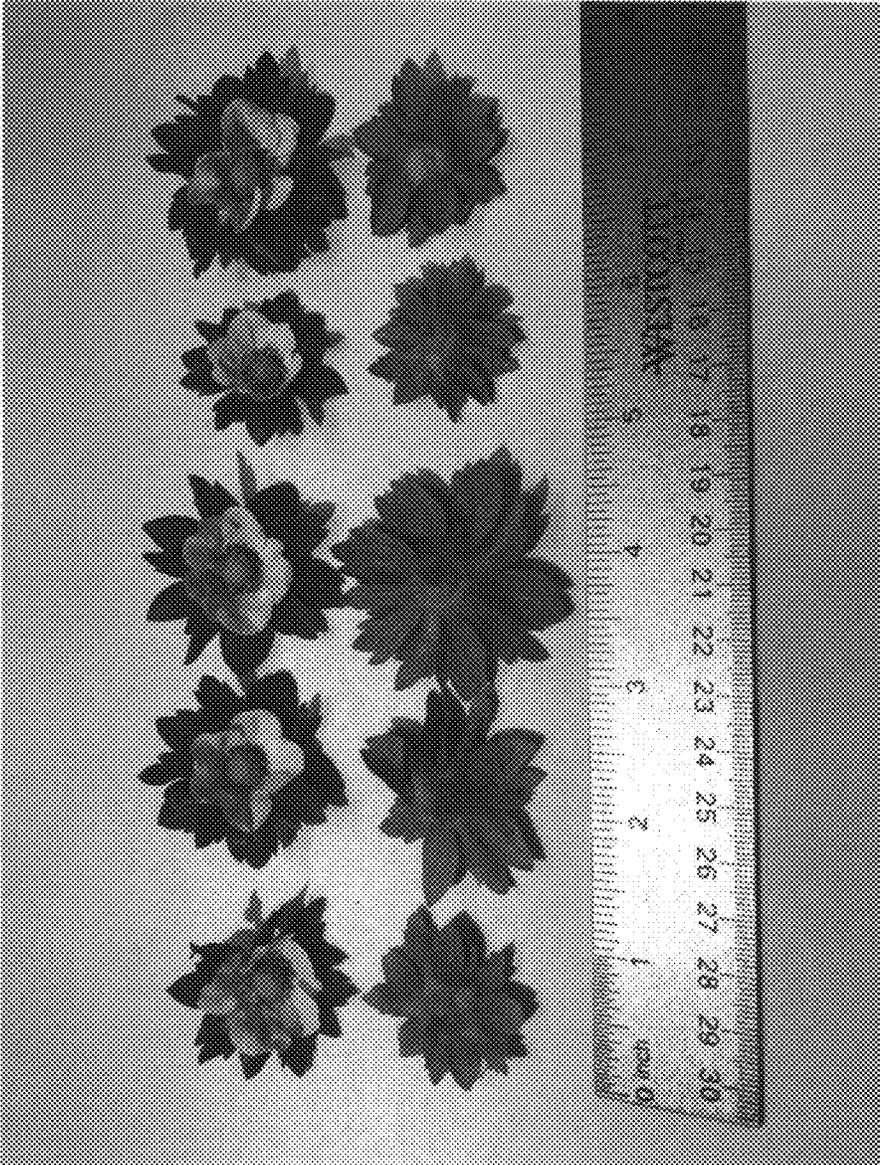


FIG. 2

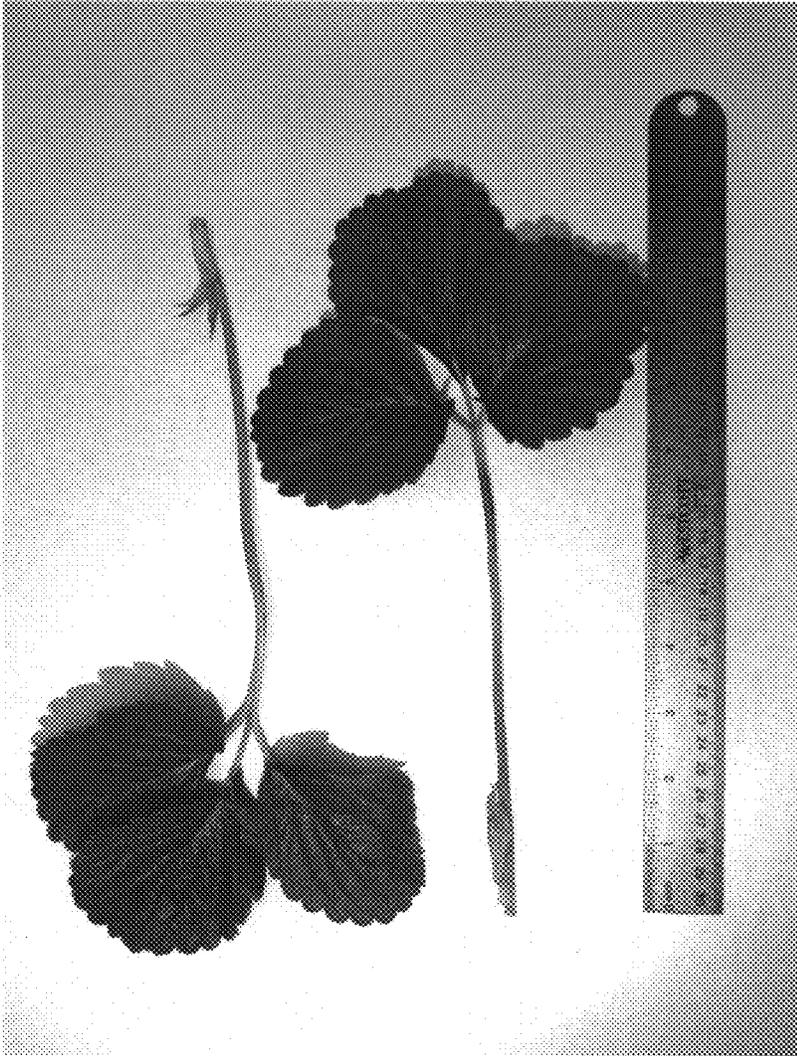


FIG. 3A

FIG. 3B

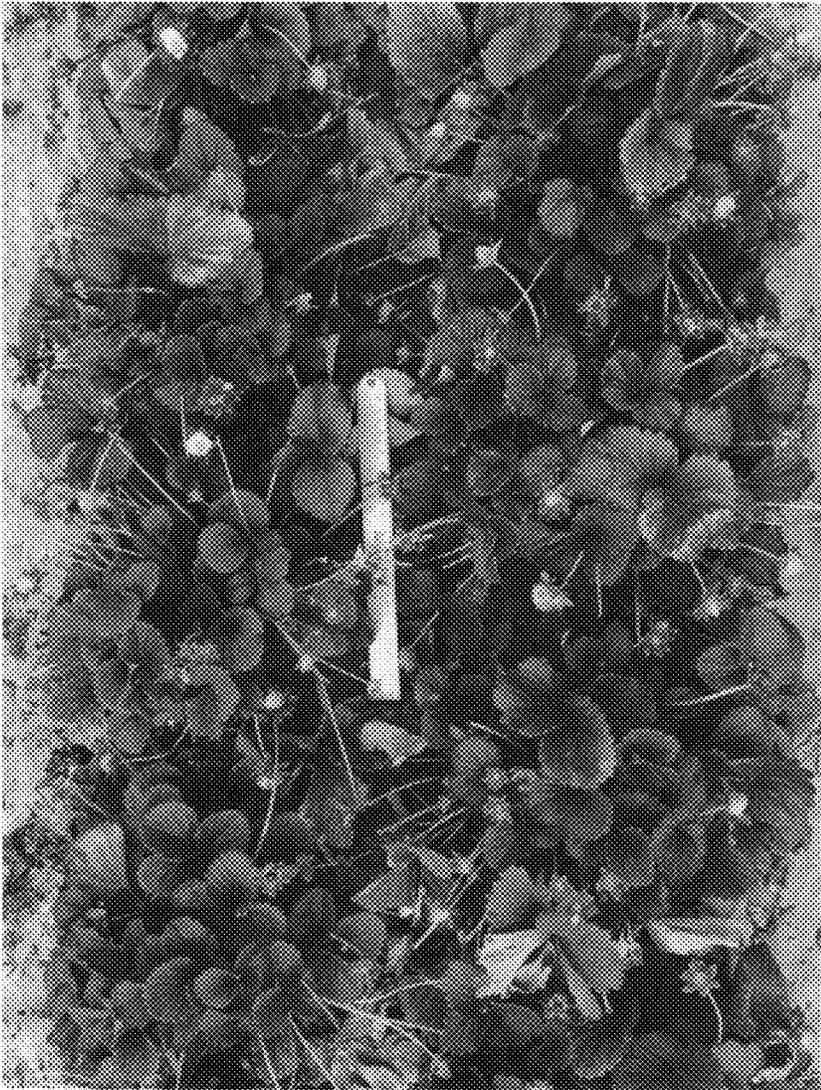


FIG. 4