

[54] GERBERA PLANT 'MATADOR'

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[57] ABSTRACT

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An original variety of Gerbera plant distinguished by a red color of its outer petals, its ability to grow vigorously and flower profusely during the spring, midseason, and fall blooming periods as well as blooming in the winter in the greenhouse.

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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt. 68

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE PLANT

This variety of *Gerbera jamesonii*, named 'Matador', originated as a seedling at Rijnsenhout, and resulted from the crossing in March of 1982 of 77-224 as the seed parent and the pollen parent identification as 80-310, taken from my collection of *Gerbera* maintained for breeding purposes at Rysenhout, the Netherlands. My objective in making the crossing being to develop new *Gerbera* varieties having blooms of good quality and excellent color on strong plants having good winter production in my greenhouses. This plant was selected from the seedlings resulting from the above crossing because of its extraordinary flower coloration with its black center and intensive red florets and its vigorous and strong growth habit. The characteristics embracing the above objectives along with other desirable improvements as set forth below distinguish this new plant from its parents as well as from all other varieties of which I am aware.

The varieties thought to be most similar are 'Atlas', 'Fabio', and 'Lea'. 'Matador' is distinguished from 'Atlas' by a black center and intensive color. 'Matador' is distinguished from 'Fabio' by its different color, and bigger flower. 'Matador' is distinguished from 'Lea' by its different color, and bigger flower.

Asexual propagation of this selected plant was carried on under my direction at Rysenhout by cuttings and further by means of tissue culture at Naaldwijk, the Netherlands, through several successive generations which clearly demonstrated that the novel characteristics of its blooming and growth habits appear to be firmly fixed and would remain true from generation to generation.

The following is a detailed description of my new *Gerbera* plant based upon observations of greenhouse plants grown at Naaldwijk, Netherlands, the color designations being according to the R.H.S. Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

This new variety is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing (FIG. 1.) which shows its bloom in full color, with such colors of the photograph being as true to those of the plant as can be reasonably obtained from conventional professional photographic procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

Leaf length: Medium.  
5 Leaf width: Broad.  
Leaf blade thickness: Medium.  
Leaf blade blistering: Weak.  
Leaf blade pubescence on upper side mid-rib excluded:  
Sparse.  
10 Leaf blade depth of incisions on basal part: Deep.  
Leaf blade depth of incisions on the central third: Medium.  
Leaf blade depth of incisions on distal part: Shallow.  
Leaf blade color of upper side: Medium Green RHS 139  
15 A.  
Leaf blade glossiness of upper side: Medium.  
Leaf blade angle of apex: Obtuse.  
Leaf blade shape of apex: Rounded.  
Leaf blade margin of lobes: Dentate to undulated.  
20 Leaf blade extensions of margin: Medium.  
Petiole length: Medium.  
Petiole anthocyanin coloration: Present.  
Petiole intensity of anthocyanin coloration: Weak.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FLOWER:

Peduncle length: Medium.  
Peduncle cross section: Round to somewhat elliptic.  
Peduncle tendency to fasciation: Absent.  
30 Peduncle thickness: Medium.  
Peduncle strength: Medium to strong.  
Peduncle pubescence: Medium.  
Peduncle color: Medium Green RHS 144 B.  
Peduncle anthocyanin color at base: Present.  
35 Peduncle intensity of anthocyanin coloration at base:  
Very weak.  
Peduncle anthocyanin coloration at top: Absent.  
Peduncle involucre bracts: Absent.  
Flower head type: Single.  
40 Flower head diameter: Medium.  
Flower head height from point of attachment of involucre to top of flower head: Medium.  
Flower head height of involucre: Low.  
Flower head diameter of involucre: Medium.  
45 Flower head number of involucre bracts: Many.  
Flower head longitudinal axis of bracts of inner rows of involucre: Reflexing.  
Flower head anthocyanin coloration at top of inner involucre bracts: Absent.

Flower head intensity of anthocyanin coloration at top of inner involucre bracts: N/A.  
 Flower head pubescence of involucre: Medium.  
 Flower head number of ray florets of outer rows: Many.  
 Flower head shape of ray florets of out row: Narrow obovate.  
 Ray floret longitudinal axis of rays of outer row: Reflexing to straight.  
 Ray floret longitudinal axis of rays of inner row (normally developed ray florets): Straight, top reflexing.  
 Male floret longitudinal axis of ray (semi-double or double varieties only): N/A.  
 Outer ray floret cross section of ray: Flat to slightly convex.  
 Outer ray floret length: Medium.  
 Outer ray floret width: Medium.  
 Outer ray floret longitudinal folding: Very strong.  
 Outer ray floret angle of apex: Right angle (virtually).  
 Outer ray floret shape of apex: Rounded.  
 Outer ray floret incisions of apex: Present.  
 Outer ray floret number of incisions: Two.  
 Outer ray floret depth of incisions: Shallow.  
 Outer ray floret length of free petals: Short.  
 Outer ray floret color of inner side: RHS 42A but slightly darker.  
 Outer ray floret distribution of the color on the inner side: Uniform.  
 Outer ray floret edge of different color: Absent.  
 Outer ray floret striation: Absent.  
 Outer ray floret color of outer side:

Description	Remarks
RHS 33A-B RHS 31B	Orange, basal middle and top, but sometimes with weak yellowish tint

Outer ray floret claw spot: Present.  
 Disc diameter (single or semi-double varieties only): Large.  
 Disc main color before flowering of disc florets (single or semi-double varieties only): Purple RHS 200 A.  
 Disc main color of perianth lobes of female flowers: Dentated yellow RHS 33 A.  
 Disc main color of perianth lobes of male flowers: Red, diffused Red, dentated White RHS 33 A.

**DESCRIPTION OF REPRODUCTION ORGANS**

Style main color of distal part: Yellow RHS 11 B.  
 Stigma main color: Yellow RHS 2 D.  
 Anthers main color: Dark Yellow RHS 16 A.  
 Anthers color of top relative to other parts: Lighter.  
 Anthers longitudinal stripes: Present, sometimes.  
 Pappus main color: Purple RHS 200 A.  
 Pappus color of top relative to other parts: Identical.  
 Pappus level of top relative to closed disc florets: Above to same level.

**We claim:**

1. The new distinct variety of Gerbera plant herein described and illustrated and identified by the characteristics enumerated above.

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*FIG. 1.*