



## APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

## CONEFLOWER

### CONEFLOWER (*Echinacea*)

**Proposed denomination:** 'Yellow My Darling'  
**Application number:** 21-10422  
**Application date:** 2021/02/02  
**Applicant:** Walters Gardens, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan, United States of America  
**Agent in Canada:** Variety Rights Management, Oxford Station, Ontario  
**Breeder:** Hans A. Hansen, Zeeland, Michigan, United States of America

**Variety used for comparison:** 'Canary Feathers'

**Summary:** *The plants of 'Yellow My Darling' are taller than those of 'Canary Feathers'. The leaf blade of 'Yellow My Darling' is ovate shaped and larger than that of 'Canary Feathers', which is lanceolate shaped. The ray florets of 'Yellow My Darling' are both spatulate and ligulate types while those of 'Canary Feathers' are all ligulate type. The inner side of the ray floret of 'Yellow My Darling' is dark yellow while that of 'Canary Feathers' is medium yellow. The floret disc of 'Yellow My Darling' is larger in diameter than that of 'Canary Feathers'.*

#### Description:

**PLANT:** vegetatively propagated perennial, bushy-rounded growth habit, sparse branching

**STEM:** light to medium green, absent or very weak anthocyanin colouration, absent or very weak glaucosity, absent or very sparse pubescence, medium thickness, smooth texture

**LEAF:** alternate arrangement along stem, petiole present

**LEAF BLADE:** simple type, ovate shape, acute apex, attenuate base, entire margin, no variegation

**LEAF BLADE (UPPER SIDE):** absent or very sparse pubescence, absent or very weak glaucosity, medium green,

**LEAF BLADE (LOWER SIDE):** absent or very sparse pubescence, light to medium green

**PEDUNCLE:** absent or very weak anthocyanin colouration, absent or very sparse pubescence

**FLOWERING PERIOD:** occurs once mid-season, medium length

**INFLORESCENCE:** head type, positioned terminally

**FLOWER:** erect attitude

**RAY FLORET:** medium number, spatulate and ligulate type, longitudinal axis of majority is straight, inner side is dark yellow (RHS 14A to 15A)

**DISC:** medium green (RHS 144A) to light green (RHS 144B)

**Origin and Breeding:** 'Yellow My Darling' originated from a self pollination of the proprietary hybrid '14-3-11' on July 15, 2015 at a nursery in Zeeland, Michigan, USA. In the summer of 2016, a new plant of 'Yellow My Darling' was selected based on its plant growth habit, foliage type and flower colour. In the fall of 2017, the seedling was originally divided at Walters Gardens, Inc. in Zeeland, Michigan, USA.

**Tests and Trials:** The comparative trial for 'Yellow My Darling' was conducted outdoors during the summer of 2023 at Variety Rights Management in Oxford Station, Ontario. The trial included a total of 15 plants each of the candidate and reference variety. All plants were grown in 16 cm pots spaced 45 cm apart. Observations and measurements were taken from 10 plants, or parts of plants, of each variety in July 2023. All colour determinations were made using the 2015 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Mean differences were significant at the 5% confidence probability level based on a paired Student's t-test.

Comparison table for ‘Yellow My Darling’

	‘Yellow My Darling’	‘Canary Feathers’*
<i>Plant height (cm)</i>		
mean	44.3	37.2
std. deviation	2.56	2.14
<i>Leaf blade length (cm)</i>		
mean	10.1	8.0
std. deviation	1.72	1.33
<i>Leaf blade width (cm)</i>		
mean	3.3	2.6
std. deviation	0.56	0.59
<i>Main colour of ray floret (RHS)</i>		
inner side	14A to 15A	12A/B
<i>Floret disc diameter (cm)</i>		
mean	2.6	2.1
std. deviation	0.18	0.18

\*reference variety



Coneflower: ‘Yellow My Darling’ (left) with reference variety ‘Canary Feathers’ (right)