‘RACHEL’—A SALMON-ORANGE SUNBURST PROTEA

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‘Rachel’ is a salmon-orange sunburst hybrid with reddish ribbons and yellow-orange styles. It was named after Rachel Goldberg of Davis, California, in recognition of the continuing support of protea research in Hawaii by James Schumacher of Omaha, Nebraska.

Origin
‘Rachel’ was a selected seedling from a cross using L. lineare x L. vestitum (Hybrid No. 1) as the female parent and pollen from L. glabrum as the male parent. Hybrid No. 1 was used to incorporate earliness, slender leaves, long stems, and good seed production, while L. glabrum was used for its dark green leaves and bright scarlet ribbon with red styles. ‘Rachel’ was selected in 1984 at the Kula experimental farm and designated Hybrid No. 29-2.

Description
‘Rachel’ produces bright salmon-orange flowers with reddish ribbons and yellow-orange styles. Flower diameter ranges from 9.5 to 10.5 cm. Major bloom occurs in January.

It has dark green leaves 1.5 cm wide and 8.1 cm long. The average stem length is 50 cm. Plants are vigorous and highly productive, and they appear to be tolerant to botrytis blight.

Availability
Cuttings are available in limited quantities from protea nurseries in Hawaii and from the Protea Association of Hawaii, P.O. Box 425, Kula, HI 96790.

Fig. 1. ‘Rachel’, a salmon-orange sunburst protea.

Fig. 2. ‘Rachel’ plant in bloom.