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(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Crawford**

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(54) **LIGULARIA PLANT NAMED ‘BRITT-MARIE CRAWFORD’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ligularia dentata*  
Varietal Denomination: **Britt-Marie Crawford**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 336 days.

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(22) Filed: **Nov. 14, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A01H 5/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./263**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **Plt./263**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

*Ligularia dentata* ‘Britt-Marie Crawford’ is a new and  
distinct cultivar of Ragwort with very dark purple brown  
foliage that remains effective throughout the growing  
season, and effective as a potted plant or landscape specimen  
or mass for the bold foliage effect and colorful yellow-  
orange glower display.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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**BACKGROUND OF THE PLANT**

The present invention relates to the new and distinct  
Ragwort plant, botanically known as *Ligularia dentata* (A.  
Gray), and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name  
‘Britt-Marie Crawford’. The stated cultivar is valued for its  
unique, deep, dark mahogany-colored, glossy foliage and  
late summer flower display.

The new Ragwort was discovered by the Inventor in  
August 2001 as a result of a seedling selected from *Ligularia*  
*dentata* ‘Othello’ (not patented) in a garden in Fife, Scot-  
land, United Kingdom. The stated plant is named for the late  
wife of the Inventor. Asexual reproduction of the Ragwort  
by tissue culture and division produces stable, true to type  
plants in successive generations in both of the above men-  
tioned propagation methods, maintaining its distinct and  
unique color characteristics. Application for Breeder’s Right  
has also been made for *Ligularia dentata* ‘Britt-Marie  
Crawford’ in the European Union through the Community  
Plant Variety Office (“CPVO”).

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The cultivar ‘Britt-Marie Crawford’ has not been  
observed under all possible environmental conditions. The  
phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environ-  
ment such as temperature, day length and light intensity,  
without, however, any variance in genotype.

The deep and very dark mahogany-colored, glossy foliage  
and late summer flower display have been repeatedly  
observed and determined to be the unique characteristics of  
‘Britt-Marie Crawford’ as distinguished from other Ragwort  
plants, and in particular from *Ligularia dentata* ‘Othello’.

*Ligularia dentata* (A. Gray) is native to eastern China and  
Japan. There are only a few cultivars known, and *Ligularia*  
*stenocephala* ‘Little Rocket’ (CPVO application number  
2002/1174) has patent protection with the Community Plant  
Variety Office. ‘Britt-Marie Crawford’ is different from all  
other *Ligularia* in that it has very dark purple-brown foliage,  
which is persistent through the season. Other cultivars, such  
as *Ligularia dentata* ‘Desdemona’ (not patented) have some

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purple foliage for a short time in early spring but the purple  
color disappears as the plant matures. The leaves of ‘Britt-  
Marie Crawford’ also have an extremely glossy luster and  
are more reflective than other forms of Ragwort.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The photographs of the new invention demonstrate the  
overall appearance of the plant including the unique traits.  
Light source and direction may cause the appearance of  
variation in the color. The colors are as accurate as reason-  
ably possible with color reproductions.

FIG. 1 shows the foliage of the plant.

FIG. 2 shows the flowers of the plant in a more mature  
state of flowering.

FIG. 3 shows a close-up view of some younger flowers to  
demonstrate flower color and form.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The following color description is based on color termi-  
nology in accordance with the 2001 version of “The Royal  
Horticultural Society Colour Chart” and is labeled with  
R.H.S. and the appropriate corresponding reference number  
and letter, except where common dictionary terms are used.  
The plant described is a two-year old plant grown in full sun  
in a garden in Fife, Scotland, United Kingdom in natural  
outdoor conditions, and under ambient temperatures for the  
region ranging from lows around 3° C. up to 18° C. during  
the summer and fall seasons. The plant prefers cool moist  
soils (41 mm to 66 mm monthly rainfall) and protection  
from hot afternoon sun, but will recover from wilt if  
stressed. The plant is not susceptible to any major pests or  
diseases and is cold tolerant to at least USDA Zone 4.

Botanical classification: *Ligularia dentata* (A. Gray) hybrid.  
Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of  
*Ligularia dentata* ‘Othello’ (not patented) produced from  
seedling.

Propagation: Asexual by division and by tissue culture.

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Rooting time: Approximately three weeks under greenhouse conditions.  
 Root description: Thick and fibrous.  
 Plant habit and form: Clump-forming, herbaceous, perennial, with basal (alternate on stem), long-petioled leaves.  
 Growth rate: Medium, finishing in a 3-inch pot in approximately 3 months.  
 Foliage height: 40 to 50 cm.  
 Foliage spread: 50 to 65 cm.  
 Leaves: Orbicular-reniform, coarsely dentate margined, 20 to 25 per plant, 16 to 18 cm long, 18 to 22 cm wide, apex rounded, base broadly rounded to cordate, abaxial color RHS 183 C, adaxial color between RHS N187 A and RHS N187 B.  
 Inflorescence (scapes): Corymbose heads, beginning August and remaining effective for six weeks.  
 Scape: On mature plants, the scapes can range between 80 to 100 cm tall, 70 to 85 cm wide (as measured diametrically across the plant from the edge of one flower to the

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edge of a flower on the opposite side) with approximately 70 to 90 flowers per plant.  
 Ray petals: Approximately 12 to 16 per flower; 22 to 27 mm long, 5 to 7 mm wide; yellow-orange RHS 17 C.  
 Flower buds at tight petal stage: 1 cm diameter, petals about RHS 17 B.  
 Disc flowers: Approximately 80 per flower, 4 to 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, RHS 13 B when young, darker than RHS 152 A when mature.  
 Anthers: 4 to 6 mm long, less than 1 mm wide, darker than RHS 17 A.  
 Pollen: RHS 17 A.  
 Seeds: Achenes, approximately 60 to 100 per flower, glabrous, 6 to 8 mm long, 1 to 1.5 mm wide, less than 1 mm thick, dark brown, nearest RHS 200 A.  
 It is claimed:  
 1. I claim a new and distinct Ragwort plant named ‘Britt-Marie Crawford’, as described and illustrated.

\* \* \* \* \*





FIG. 1





FIG. 2

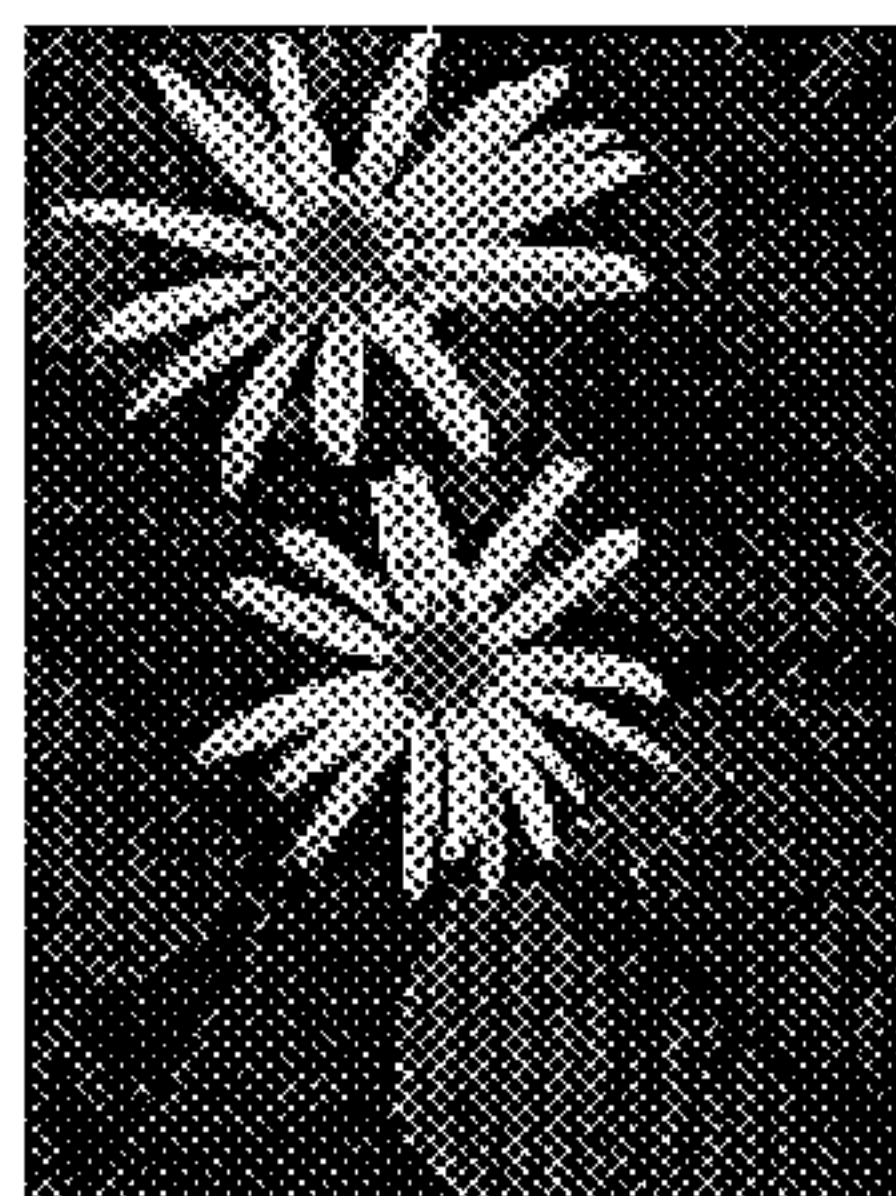


FIG. 3