

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
de Bont

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(54) **AGERATUM PLANT NAMED ‘SAGE80091’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ageratum houstonianum*
Varietal Denomination: **Sage80091**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Ageratum* plant named
‘Sage80091’, characterized by its tall, upright and mounded
plant habit; freely branching habit; dense and bushy plant
habit; dark green-colored leaves; freely flowering habit with
numerous inflorescences per plant; and inflorescences ray-
less with white-colored disc florets.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Ageratum houstonianum*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Sage80091’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Ageratum* plant, botanically known as *Ageratum housto-*
nianum and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘Sage80091’.

The new *Ageratum* is a naturally-occurring whole plant
mutation of the *Ageratum houstonianum* cultivar Bavaria,
not patented. The new *Ageratum* was discovered and
selected by the Inventor as a plant within a population of
plants of the cultivar Bavaria in a controlled environment in
Ter Aar, The Netherlands in 2001. The selection of the new
Ageratum was based on its compact plant habit, strong plant
growth, large inflorescences and attractive floret coloration.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Ageratum* by terminal
cuttings in a controlled environment in Ter Aar, The Neth-
erlands since October, 2002, has shown that the unique
features of this new *Ageratum* are stable and reproduced true
to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Ageratum* has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-
ture and light intensity without, however, any variance in
genotype.

The following characteristics have been repeatedly
observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of
‘Sage80091’ and distinguish the new *Ageratum* as a new and
distinct cultivar:

1. Tall, upright and mounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy plants.
3. Dark green-colored leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit with numerous inflorescences
per plant.
5. Inflorescences rayless with white-colored disc florets.

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Plants of the new *Ageratum* differ from plants of the
parent, the cultivar Bavaria, primarily in disc floret colora-
tion as plants of the cultivar Bavaria had blue and white-
colored disc florets.

Plants of the new *Ageratum* can be compared to plants of
the cultivar White Hawaii, not patented. In side-by-side
comparisons conducted in Ter Aar, The Netherlands, plants
of the new *Ageratum* differed from plants of the cultivar
White Hawaii in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Ageratum* were taller and more
vigorous than plants of the cultivar White Hawaii.
2. Plants of the new *Ageratum* were stronger and had
thicker lateral branches than plants of the cultivar
White Hawaii.
3. Plants of the new *Ageratum* had larger inflorescences
than plants of the cultivar White Hawaii.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored repro-
ductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
Ageratum.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a
side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of
‘Sage80091’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a
close-up view of typical inflorescences of ‘Sage80091’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs, following observations
and averaged measurements describe plants grown in
Encinitas, Calif., in an outdoor nursery under full sunlight
during the summer and fall with day temperatures averaging
27° C. and night temperatures averaging 16° C. Plants were
grown in 13-cm containers. Plants were pinched one time.

Plants had been growing for about four months when the photographs and description were taken. Color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Ageratum houstonianum* cultivar Sage 80091.

Parentage: Naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of the *Ageratum houstonianum* cultivar Bavaria, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 5 days at 21° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 8 days at 18° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, summer.—About 14 days at 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting, winter.—About 18 days at 18° C.

Root description.—Fibrous, fine; white in color.

Rooting description.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Inverted triangle; tall, upright and mounded plant form with dense foliage and inflorescences held above and beyond the foliage. Vigorous and strong growth habit.

Plant height.—About 43 cm.

Plant width.—About 52 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity per plant: About six primary lateral branches; each with about three to four secondary lateral branches. Length: About 40 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Internode length: About 4 to 4.5 cm. Aspect: Upright to slightly outwardly spreading. Strength: Very strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Initially opposite becoming alternate on flowering branches; simple. Length: About 6 cm. Width: About 6.4 cm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Broadly acute. Base: Cordate. Margin: Crenate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Petiole length: About 3.4 cm. Petiole diameter: About 4 mm. Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 147A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Darker than 147A; venation, 147C. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 147D. Petiole, upper and lower surfaces: 147C.

Inflorescence description:

Appearance/arrangement.—Rayless inflorescences arranged in terminal and axillary cymes. Freely flowering habit with about three cymes per lateral branch each with about six inflorescences. Disc

florets develop acropetally on a capitulum. Inflorescences persistent.

Flowering response.—Under natural conditions, plant flower during the spring and summer in Southern California; plants flower continuous during this period.

Inflorescence longevity.—Inflorescences last about 10 to 14 days on the plant.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Cyme diameter.—About 2.5 to 3.5 cm.

Cyme height.—About 2.3 cm.

Inflorescence size.—Diameter: About 1.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1.2 cm. Receptacle height: About 5 mm. Receptacle diameter: About 8 mm.

Inflorescence buds, at stage of showing color.—Height: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Oblate. Color: 155A.

Ray florets.—No ray florets observed.

Disc florets.—Quantity per inflorescence: About 126. Shape: Tubular, elongated; apex, five-pointed; base, fused. Length: About 6 mm. Diameter, apex: About 1.5 mm. Diameter, base: Less than 1 mm. Color: Immature: 157A. Mature, apex: 155A. Mature, mid-section and base: 155C.

Involucral bracts (phyllaries).—Quantity per inflorescence: About 32 in two whorls. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 1 mm. Shape: Linear. Apex: Acute. Base: Truncate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Glabrous, smooth. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 146A. Color, lower surface: 146B.

Pedicels.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Upright to about 45° from vertical. Length, terminal inflorescence: About 6 mm. Length, second inflorescence: About 8 mm. Length, third inflorescence: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: No stamens observed. Gynoecium: Quantity per floret: One. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Stigma shape: Bifurcate. Stigma color: 155C. Style length: About 8 mm. Style color: 155C. Ovary color: 155A.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit production has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Ageratums* has not been observed on plants grown under commercial conditions.

Temperature/weather tolerance: Plants of the new *Ageratum* have been observed to be tolerant to rain, wind and to temperatures from 2 to 32° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Ageratum* plant named 'Sage80091', as illustrated and described.

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