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**Eggleton**

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(54) **GAURA PLANT NAMED ‘SME-2’**

(50) Latin Name: *Gaura lindheimeri*  
Varietal Denomination: **SME-2**

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

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See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2006/0095995 P1 \* 5/2006 Kataoka ..... Plt./263

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Gaura* plant named ‘SME-2’ characterized  
by dense, upright habit, green and purple-red foliage,  
purple-red flower stalks and rose-pink flowers. In combina-  
tion these traits set ‘SME-2’ apart from all other existing  
varieties of *Gaura* known to the inventor.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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Genus: *Gaura*.  
Species: *lindheimeri*.  
Denomination: ‘SME-2’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety  
of *Gaura* grown for use as an ornamental plant for the  
landscape. The new cultivar is known botanically as *Gaura*  
*lindheimeri* and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar  
name ‘SME-2’.

‘SME-2’ is a hybrid plant that arose in a cultivated area in  
Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia, as follows:

In the spring of 2002, the inventor discovered growing in  
a bed of plants of *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’  
(unpatented) a single plant which exhibited a denser habit  
than *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’. This discovery  
was of interest to the inventor since, although *Gaura lind-*  
*heimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’ is very quick to grow and flower,  
it soon develops a lax or open habit. The discovery is  
presumed to be a chance seedling which resulted from the  
open pollination of plants of the surrounding plants of  
*Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’. Plants of the species  
*Gaura lindheimeri* have a tendency to self-seed if numerous  
flower stems are left in place. However, most cultivars of  
*Gaura lindheimeri*, including *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Dauphine’  
(unpatented)—which was the pollen parent of *Gaura lind-*  
*heimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’—appear to be sterile.

The inventor marked the single discovered plant and  
allowed it to run to seed so that further plants could be raised  
from this improved selection. The seed was collected and  
sown immediately. In summer 2002/2003, the resulting  
seedlings were transplanted into individual 14 cm diameter  
containers which were planting out into a trial bed for  
over-wintering and evaluation as freshly-grown plants in  
spring 2003. After repeated observation of the trials plants  
during spring and summer 2003, the inventor selected and  
removed for asexual reproduction and further trials a single  
plant to be known as ‘SME-2’. The inventor selected ‘SME-

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2’ for its particular combination of overall plant size and  
form which is dense and upright, its foliage which is both  
green and purple-red, its purple-red flower stalks, and its  
rose-pink flowers.

5 ‘SME-2’ was first asexually propagated by the inventor in  
2003 from vegetative (non-flowering) stem cuttings taken  
from the original plant ‘SME-2’. The cuttings were grown to  
rooted plug stage and then transferred to 140 mm.  
containers, filled with pine bark based mix containing con-  
trolled release fertilizer. The resulting plants were deter-  
mined to exhibit the same characteristics as the originally  
selected plant ‘SME-2’ and from subsequent asexual repro-  
ductions the inventor has determined that the new variety  
‘SME-2’ is stable and reproduces true to type.

15 When compared with *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Passionate  
Pink’, ‘SME-2’ is readily distinguished by its dense foliage  
habit, whereas *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Passionate Pink’ exhibits  
a somewhat sparse growth habit.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new plant  
‘SME-2’. In combination these traits set ‘SME-2’ apart from  
all other *Gaura* known to the inventor. ‘SME-2’ has not been  
tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic differ-  
ences may be observed with variations in environmental,  
climatic and cultural conditions, however, without any vari-  
ance in genotype.

- 30 1. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ exhibits a dense, upright habit.
2. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ exhibits purple-red flower stalks.
3. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ exhibits green and purple-red foliage.
4. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ is propagated using vegetative stem  
cuttings.
- 35 5. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ exhibits rose-pink flowers.
6. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ is hardy in USDA Zones 6–10.
7. *Gaura* ‘SME-2’ is 65 cm. in height and up to 100 cm.  
in width at five months of age.



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Gaura* cultivar 'SME-2' showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the drawings may differ from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual colors of the new variety 'SME-2'.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 1 illustrates a mature one year old plant planted out-of-doors in Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia with approximate height 65 cm and approximate width 100 cm.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 2 illustrates a five months old plant of 'SME-2' that has been grown in a cool greenhouse in a 14 cm container and is ready for market in bud and first flower.

The drawing labeled as FIG. 3 presents a close-up view of a flower of 'SME-2'.

Drawings were made using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

## BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new *Gaura* plant named 'SME-2'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from plants that had been received from the inventor as cuttings in early spring 2004. The plants, which grow very rapidly, were rooted and grown out of doors in one-liter containers and then transplanted into the ground. The plants were approximately five months old at the time of data collection. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2001 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to other *Gaura*.

Botanical classification: Genus: *Gaura*.

Species: *lindheimeri*.

Denomination: 'SME-2'.

Commercial classification: Perennial.

Common name: Butterfly bush.

Use: Ornamental for container or landscape.

Cultural requirements: Plant in well-drained moderately fertile soil in full sun.

Pests and disease: No susceptibility or resistance to pests or disease are known to the inventor.

Root system: Deep rooting makes the plant very drought tolerant.

Parentage: *Gaura* 'SME-2' was selected as a single seedling grown from seed collected from a plant which was discovered within a crop of *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Passionate Pink'.

Plant description:

*Bloom period*.—Late spring to fall.

*Plant habit*.—Dense, upright growth habit.

*Plant height*.—65 cm. in height after one year.

*Plant width*.—100 cm. in width after one year.

*Plant hardiness*.—USDA Zones 6–10.

*Propagation*.—Propagation is accomplished using vegetative stem cuttings.

*Time to develop roots*.—2–3 weeks are needed for initial cuttings to develop roots.

*Crop time*.—4 months are needed to produce a finished 1-liter container.

Stem:

*Main trunk dimensions*.—20 cm. in length and 0.50 cm. in diameter.

*Main trunk color*.—199B.

*Main trunk shape*.—Subcylindric.

*Main trunk texture*.—Rigid.

*Main trunk surface*.—Scarious.

*Stem shape*.—Cylindrical.

*Stem color*.—147B.

*Stem texture*.—Flexible.

*Stem dimensions*.—11 cm. in length and 0.25 cm. in diameter.

*Stem surface*.—Mostly glabrous, with only a few hairs.

*Internode length*.—Average internode length is 6.1 mm.

*Branching habit*.—Sympodium and densely branching from main trunk.

*Node dimensions*.—Prominent nodes 0.50 cm. in height and 0.50 cm. in width.

*Node color*.—147A.

Foliage:

*Shape*.—Oblanceolate.

*Division*.—Simple.

*Apex*.—Acute.

*Base*.—Attenuate.

*Venation pattern*.—Pinnate.

*Vein color (adaxial surfaces)*.—187A.

*Vein color (abaxial surfaces)*.—187A.

*Margins*.—Entire and slightly undulate.

*Attachment*.—Sessile.

*Arrangement*.—Opposite.

*Leaf surface (adaxial and abaxial surfaces)*.—Glabrous.

*Leaf appearance*.—Matte.

*Leaf dimensions*.—65 mm–70 mm in length and 5 mm–10 mm in width.

*Variation*.—Absent.

*Leaf color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces)*.—Colors 147A and 187A are both individually present on all individual leaves that are above the base of the plant.

*Basal leaf color (abaxial and adaxial surfaces)*.—On leaves that are at the base of the plant, color is 147A.

*Anthocyanin coloration*.—Strongest on new growth.

*Fragrance*.—None observed.

Flowers:

*Inflorescence*.—Panicle.

*Dimensions of inflorescence*.—5 cm. in length and 1 cm. in width.

*Shape*.—Explanate.

*Sexuality*.—Bisexual.

*Flower dimensions*.—2.25 cm. in diameter and 2 cm. in length.

*Calcar dimensions*.—12 mm. in length and 3 mm. in width.

*Calcar color*.—184C.

*Persistent or self-cleaning*.—Self-cleaning.

*Aspect*.—Facing outward.

*Bud dimensions*.—2 mm. in width and 8 mm. in length.

*Bud shape*.—Oblong.

*Bud color*.—187B.

*Bud surface*.—Lanate.

*Bract color*.—184A.

*Bract dimensions*.—8 mm. in length and 0.20 mm. in width.

*Bract shape*.—Linear.

*Bract surface*.—Lanate.

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*Number of bracts.*—10–15 bracts.

*Number of buds per peduncle.*—An average of 10–15 buds per peduncle.

*Bud apex.*—Rounded.

*Flower color.*—Colors 65A, 65D, 68A, and N66A are individually present on individual flower.

*Petals.*—Four in number.

*Petal color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).*—Colors 65A, 68A, and N66A are individually present in individual petals.

*Petal shape.*—Ovate.

*Petal dimensions.*—14 mm. in length and 6 mm. in width.

*Vein pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Vein color (adaxial and abaxial surfaces).*—N66A.

*Petals fused or unfused.*—Unfused.

*Petal margin.*—Entire.

*Petal apex.*—Rounded.

*Petal surface.*—Glabrous.

*Peduncle shape.*—Cylindrical.

*Peduncle color.*—187B.

*Peduncle surface.*—Puberulent.

*Peduncle dimensions.*—10 cm. in length and 2 mm. in width.

*Flower fragrance.*—None observed.

Reproductive organs:

*Stamens.*—Eight in number.

*Stamen color.*—65A.

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*Stamen dimensions.*—9 mm. in length and 0.25 mm. in diameter.

*Anther color.*—187A.

*Anther dimensions.*—2.50 mm. in length and 0.50 mm. in width.

*Quantity of pollen.*—Small amount.

*Color of pollen.*—155C.

*Pistil.*—One in number.

*Pistil dimensions.*—12 mm. in length and 0.50 mm. in width.

*Pistil color.*—184D.

*Pistil shape.*—Filament.

*Style color.*—184D.

*Stigma shape.*—Four lobed.

*Stigma color.*—184C.

*Stigma dimensions.*—2 mm. in height and 2 mm. in width.

*Ovary position.*—Inferior.

*Ovary color.*—139A.

*Ovary shape.*—Globular.

*Ovary dimensions.*—3 mm. in length and 3 mm. in diameter.

Seed production: No seed production has been observed to date.

What is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Gaura* plant named ‘SME-2’ as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1





FIG. 2





FIG. 3