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Mehring-Lemper

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(54) ***AGASTACHE* PLANT NAMED 'AGA 304'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Agastache mexicana***
Varietal Denomination: **AGA 304**

(75) Inventor: **Manfred Mehring-Lemper**, Münden (DE)

(73) Assignee: **Ernst Beanry Samenzcht GmbH**, Hänn. Münden (DE)

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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Kent L. Bell
Assistant Examiner—S. B. McCormick-Ewoldt
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Agastache* plant named 'AGA 304', characterized by its compact, upright, outwardly spreading and open plant habit; freely branching habit; long inflorescences with purple-colored flowers; freely and continuous flowering habit; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Agastache mexicana.*
Cultivar denomination: 'AGA 304'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Agastache,* botanically known as *Agastache mexicana* and hereinafter referred to by the name 'AGA 304'.

The new *Agastache* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Hann. Münden, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to create to new *Agastache* cultivars with large and dense inflorescences and attractive flower coloration.

The new *Agastache* originated from an open-pollination during the summer of 2003 in Hann. Münden, Germany, of an unnamed selection of *Agastache mexicana,* not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Agastache mexicana* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Agastache* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Hann. Münden, Germany during the summer of 2004.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Agastache* by vegetative cuttings in a controlled environment in Hann. Münden, Germany during the winter of 2004, has shown that the unique features of this new *Agastache* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar AGA 304 has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'AGA 304'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'AGA 304' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Agastache:*

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1. Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and open plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Long inflorescences with purple-colored flowers.
4. Freely and continuous flowering habit.
5. Good garden performance.

Compared to plants of the female parent selection, plants of the new *Agastache* are more compact and differ in flower coloration.

Plants of the new *Agastache* can also be compared to plants of the cultivar Acapulco Rose-Red, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Hann. Münden, Germany, plants of the new *Agastache* and the cultivar Acapulco Rose-Red differed in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Agastache* had lighter red-colored flower buds than plants of the cultivar Acapulco Rose-red.
2. Plants of the new *Agastache* had smaller flowers than plants of the cultivar Acapulco Rose-Red.
3. Plants of the new *Agastache* had darker colored flowers than plants of the cultivar Acapulco Rose-Red.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Agastache,* showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differs slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Agastache.*

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'AGA 304' grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical inflorescence of 'AGA 304'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants

grown in Loudon, New Hampshire during the winter and under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 21° C. and night temperatures ranged from 16° C. to 18° C. After planting, plants were pinched one time. Plants had been growing for about 14 weeks when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, 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: *Agastache mexicana* cultivar AGA 304.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Agastache mexicana,* not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Agastache mexicana,* not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 15 to 20 days at 22° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About three to four weeks at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant roots, summer.—About four weeks at 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant roots, winter.—About five weeks at 20° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; 158C in color.

Plant description:

Plant form/habit.—Compact, upright, outwardly spreading and open plant habit; vigorous growth habit. Freely branching habit with about five lateral branches, each with several secondary branches; pinching enhances branching potential.

Plant height.—About 40 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 33 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 28 cm. Diameter: About 4.5 mm. Internode length: About 5.75 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 6.1 cm.

Width.—About 4.6 cm.

Shape.—Deltoid.

Apex.—Broadly acute.

Base.—Truncate with cordate tendencies.

Margin.—Crenate.

Texture, upper surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Texture, lower surface.—Sparsely pubescent; glandular.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; arcuate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 147A; venation, 147B. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 147B; venation, 147C.

Petiole length.—About 3.1 cm.

Petiole diameter.—About 1.5 mm.

Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Petiole color, upper surface.—146A.

Petiole color, lower surface.—146B.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Numerous single bilabiate flowers arranged in verticillasters arranged in axillary long spikes. Individual flowers face mostly outward. Freely flowering habit with about 105 flowers and flower buds per spike. Flowers persistent.

Natural flowering season.—Plants flower from late June through September in the Northern Hemisphere; flowering continuous during this period.

Inflorescence longevity on the plant.—About three to four weeks.

Fragrance.—None detected.

Inflorescence length.—About 6.2 cm.

Inflorescence width.—About 4.2 cm.

Flowers.—Appearance: Zygomorphic; bilabiate. Length: About 2.4 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm by 7 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.6 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Shape: Obovate; curved. Color: 172B to 172C.

Corolla.—Petal arrangement/appearance: Bilabiate; five petals, upper two petals fused and lower three petals fused, all five petals fused at base into a tubular structure. Petal length: Upper petals, lobes: About 4 mm. Lower petals, lobes: About 5 mm. Petal width: Upper petals, lobes: About 2 mm. Lower petals, lobes: About 4 mm. Petal apex: Rounded to broadly acute. Petal margin: Upper petals: Entire. Lower petals: Praemorse. Petal texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Petal color: When opening, upper surface: 77C. When opening, lower surface: 77D. Fully opened, upper surface: 77B. Fully opened, lower surface: 77C; tube, 75B to 75C.

Calyx.—Quantity/arrangement: One single calyx tube per flower; five fused sepals. Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 145C. Color, lower surface: Towards the apex, 186D; fused portion, 145A.

Peduncles.—Length: About 8 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 30° to 40° from peduncle axis. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 148C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Four. Filament length: About 1.8 cm to 2 cm. Filament color: 75A. Anther shape: Bi-lobed. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 71A. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 198D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 2.7 cm. Style length: About 2.4 mm. Style color: 91C. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: 77B. Ovary color: 145A.

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

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Agastache* have not been noted to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Agastache.*

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Agastache* have been observed to have good garden performance and to be tolerant to rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about 0° C. to 38° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Agastache* plant named 'AGA 304' as illustrated and described.

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