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Mehring-Lemper

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(54) *AGASTACHE* PLANT NAMED ‘AGA 504’

(50) Latin Name: *Agastache mexicana*
Varietal Denomination: **AGA 504**

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

(73) Assignee: **Ernst Benary GmbH**, Hann Munden
(DE)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./399**
See application file for complete search history.

Primary 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 504’, characterized by its compact, upright and open plant habit; freely branching habit; vigorous growth habit; long inflorescences with dark 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 504’.

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 504’.

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 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 504 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 504’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘AGA 504’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Agastache*:

1. Compact, upright and open plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.

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3. Vigorous growth habit.
4. Long inflorescences with dark purple-colored flowers.
5. Freely and continuous flowering habit.
6. 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* were more vigorous than plants of the cultivar Acapulco Rose-Red.
2. Plants of the new *Agastache* had longer inflorescences 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 differ 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 504’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of typical inflorescences of ‘AGA 504’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Carleton, Mich. during the winter and under commercial practice in a polycarbonate-covered greenhouse. During the production of the plants, day temperatures aver-

aged 21° C. and night temperatures averaged 20° C. After planting, plants were pinched one time. Plants had been growing for about six 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 504.

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 and open plant habit; very vigorous growth habit. Freely branching habit with about six lateral branches, each with several secondary branches; pinching enhances branching potential.

Plant height.—About 44 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 23 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 28 cm. Diameter: About 3.5 mm. Internode length: About 4.25 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146C.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—About 4.5 cm.

Width.—About 2.8 cm.

Shape.—Deltoid.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Truncate with cordate tendencies.

Margin.—Crenate to serrate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate; arcuate.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded leaves, upper surface: 147A; venation, 147B. Developing and fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 147B; venation, 147C.

Petiole length.—About 1.5 cm.

Petiole diameter.—About 2 mm.

Petiole texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Petiole color, upper and lower surfaces.—146C.

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 84 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 cm to 8 cm.

Inflorescence width.—About 7 cm.

Flowers.—Appearance: Zygomorphic; bilabiate. Length: About 3.2 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm by 13 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Shape: Obovate; curved. Color: 72A.

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 3 mm. Lower petals, lobes: About 5 mm. Petal width: Upper petals, lobes: About 2.5 mm. Lower petals, lobes: About 8 mm. Petal apex: Upper petals, rounded; lower petals, cordate. Petal margin: Upper petals: Entire. Lower petals: Irregularly serrate. Petal texture, upper surface: Pubescent. Petal texture, lower surface: Smooth, glabrous. Petal color: When opening and fully expanded, upper surface: 78B. When opening and fully expanded, lower surface: 78A.

Calyx.—Quantity/arrangement: One single calyx tube per flower; five fused sepals. Length: About 1.5 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous. Texture, lower surface: Pubescent. Color, upper surface: 195A. Color, lower surface: More grey than 183D.

Peduncles.—Length: About 4.5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: Erect to about 45° from vertical. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146C.

Pedicels.—Length: About 2.5 mm. Diameter: Less than 1 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: About 30° to 40° from peduncle axis. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 183C.

Reproductive organs.—Stamens: Quantity per flower: Four. Filament length: About 2.4 cm. Filament color: 78B. Anther shape: Bi-lobed. Anther length: About 1 mm. Anther color: 79D. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: 198D. Pistils: Quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 3.2 cm. Style length: About 2.8 mm. Style color: 77D. Stigma shape: Bi-parted. Stigma color: 77A. Ovary color: 148C.

Seed/fruit.—Seed nor 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 504' as illustrated and described.

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