



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(54) **GAURA PLANT NAMED ‘WALSNOFOU’**

(50) Latin Name: ***Gaura lindheimeri***
Varietal Denomination: **Walsnofou**

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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 cultivar of *Gaura* plant named ‘WALSNOFOU’ that
is characterized by dense upright habit throughout season,
stiff well-branched stems, white flowers, and medium-green
foliage. In combination these traits set ‘WALSNOFOU’
apart from all other existing varieties of *Gaura* known to the
inventor.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Genus: *Gaura*.
Species: *lindheimeri*.
Denomination: ‘WALSNOFOU’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

In 1984, the inventor began a *Gaura* breeding program
with the intention of developing new varieties with sturdier
plant habit and dense floriferous blooming. The inventor has
already raised and introduced a pink-flowered *Gaura* with
these attributes, namely *Gaura* ‘WALGAUPF’ (U.S. Plant
Pat. No. 15,555). The goal of the present invention has been
to achieve a similar result in a pure white flowered form.

The inventor’s initial material was obtained as commer-
cially available seed of the species *Gaura lindheimeri*. The
inventor raised seedlings in an unheated greenhouse and
grew on the plants to maturity in containers in an outdoor
nursery production area in Arundel, West Sussex, United
Kingdom. The plants were allowed to remain outdoors all
year round so that overall plant and flowering habits could be
evaluated and compared after a full growing season.

In 1997, the inventor observed in that year’s set of flower-
ing plants an individual *Gaura* plant which exhibited dis-
tinctly stiffer stems in comparison with all of the other seed-
lings of similar age. From this plant, the inventor collected
self-pollinated seed, and sowed this seed with the intention
of re-selecting for the same desirable characteristics. The
resulting seedlings were observed for two or more years, and
in 2000 the inventor determined that one particular plant,
‘WALSNOFOU’ was overall the most attractive and distinct
from all forms of the species previously known or raised by
the inventor.

The distinguishing characteristics of ‘WALSNOFOU’ are
stiff well-branched stems which bear white flowers in
profusion, and whose overall plant habit remains dense and
upright throughout the season. In these respects, ‘WALSNO-
FOU’ is markedly different from the antecedent plants of the

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species *Gaura lindheimeri* which the inventor had raised.
Such seed-raised plants were typically loose and open in
habit and in their flowering.

The dimensions of ‘WALSNOFOU’ at maturity are 80
cm. in height and 60 cm. in width. Cultural requirements are
well-draining soil, and full sun, with infrequent to moderate
water. ‘WALSNOFOU’ is hardy in USDA Zones 5–10.

The first asexual propagation was conducted by the inven-
tor in 2003. Propagation was carried out by the inventor in
unheated greenhouses at the inventor’s nursery in Arundel,
United Kingdom using the method of stem cuttings. The
differentiating characteristics of ‘WALSNOFOU’ are deter-
mined stable and reproduce true to type during successive
generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new *Gaura*
cultivar ‘WALSNOFOU’. In combination these traits set
‘WALSNOFOU’ apart from all other *Gaura* known to the
inventor. ‘WALSNOFOU’ has not been tested under all pos-
sible conditions and phenotypic differences may be
observed with variations in environmental, climatic and cul-
tural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

1. ‘WALSNOFOU’ exhibits dense upright habit.
2. ‘WALSNOFOU’ retains habit through the season.
3. ‘WALSNOFOU’ exhibits freely borne white flowers.
4. ‘WALSNOFOU’ exhibits stiff, well-branched stems.
5. ‘WALSNOFOU’ exhibits medium-green foliage.
6. ‘WALSNOFOU’ is asexually propagated using the
method of stem cuttings.
7. ‘WALSNOFOU’ is hardy in USDA Zones 5–10.
8. ‘WALSNOFOU’ reaches 80 cm in height and 60 cm in
width at maturity.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall
appearance of the new *Gaura* cultivar named ‘WALSNO-
FOU’ showing color as true as is reasonably possible to

obtain in color reproductions of this type. Color in the drawings may differ from color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which accurately describe the actual color of the new variety 'WALSNOFOU'.

The drawing labeled FIG. 1 depicts an individual plant of 'WALSNOFOU' in full bloom. The illustrated plant is two years old and is growing in a 3 liter pot out of doors at the inventor's nursery in Arundel, West Sussex, United Kingdom. No growth regulators have been used.

The drawing labeled FIG. 2 depicts a close-up view of the flowers of the same plant utilized for FIG. 1.

Colors in the drawings may appear different from actual color due to light reflectance, but as close as is reasonably possible to obtain by conventional photography.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed botanical description of the new *Gaura* variety named 'WALSNOFOU'. Data was collected in Arroyo Grande, Calif. from 12-month-old plants that were grown in 2-liter containers out-of-doors in full sun. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2001 Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to other *Gaura*.

Botanical classification: *Gaura lindheimeri* 'WALSNOFOU'.

Family: Onagraceae.

Genus: *Gaura*.

species: *lindheimeri*.

Denomination: 'WALSNOFOU'.

Common name: Butterfly bush.

Commercial classification: Perennial.

Use: Ornamental plant for herbaceous borders and the landscape.

Cultural requirements: Plant in well-draining soil, and full sun, with infrequent to moderate water.

Susceptibility to pests and disease: None known to the inventor.

Root system: Deep rooting contributes to drought tolerance.

Parentage: 'WALSNOFOU' is a selected seedling which was raised from seed which was collected from a self-fertilized unnamed and unreleased seed-raised plant of *Gaura lindheimeri*.

Plant description:

Bloom period.—Late spring through summer.

Habit.—Dense upright habit.

Dimensions (first year).—80 cm in height and 30 cm in width.

Dimensions (at maturity).—80 cm in height and 60 cm in width.

Hardiness.—USDA Zones 5–10.

Propagation.—Propagation is accomplished using the method of stem cuttings.

Time to develop roots.—2–3 weeks from initial cutting.

Crop time.—4–6 months to produce a finished 1-liter container.

Stem:

Shape.—Cylindrical.

Color.—Emerges 138B becoming 182B at maturity.

Texture.—Stiff.

Dimensions.—12 cm. in length and 3 mm. in diameter.

Surface.—Pubescent.

Internode length (average).—0.50 cm.

Foliage:

Type.—Basal and cauline.

Shape.—Oblanceolate.

Division.—Simple.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Vein color (adaxial surface).—191D.

Vein color (abaxial surface).—191D.

Margins.—Entire.

Attachment.—Sub-sessile.

Arrangement.—Alternate.

Leaf surface (adaxial).—Puberulent.

Leaf surface (abaxial).—Puberulent.

Leaf appearance.—Matte.

Leaf length (average).—5 cm.

Leaf width (average).—1 cm.

Leaf color (adaxial surface).—138A.

Leaf color (abaxial surface).—138B.

Fragrance.—None observed.

Flowers:

Inflorescence.—Raceme.

Flower quantity per inflorescence (range).—10–25.

Flower quantity per plant (range).—100–300.

Lastingness of flower (average).—24 hours.

Flower depth.—4 cm.

Flower diameter.—3.75 cm.

Flower color.—155B.

Flower shape.—Clawed opening flat.

Flowers persistent or self-cleaning.—Self-cleaning.

Aspect.—Facing outward and upward.

Bud dimensions.—1.75 cm in length and 0.40 cm in width.

Bud quantity.—10–25 buds per inflorescence.

Bud shape.—Linear.

Bud color.—Mostly 160C; 178A towards base.

Bud surface.—Pubescent.

Bud apex.—Acute.

Bud base.—Truncate.

Petals.—Four in number.

Petal shape.—Obovate.

Petal color (adaxial and abaxial surface).—155B.

Petal dimensions.—2 cm in length and 1 cm in width.

Petals fused or unfused.—Unfused.

Petal margin.—Entire.

Petal apex.—Broadly acute.

Petal base.—Attenuated.

Petal surfaces (adaxial and abaxial).—Glabrous.

Calyx.—Petaloid.

Sepals.—4 connate.

Sepals fused or unfused.—Fused.

Sepal color.—181C.

Sepal dimensions.—1.75 cm in length and 0.10 cm in width.

Sepal surface.—Puberulent.

Pedicel dimensions.—0.50 cm in length and 1.50 mm in width.

Pedicel color.—146D initially, quickly becoming 178A.

Pedicel shape.—Cylindrical.

Pedicel surface.—Glabrous.

Peduncle dimensions (average).—30 cm in length and 2.50 mm in diameter.

Peduncle shape.—Cylindrical.

Peduncle color.—144A.

Peduncle surface.—Glabrous.

Flower fragrance.—None observed.

Reproductive organs:
 Stamens.—Eight in number.
 Stamen color.—155B.
 Stamen length (average).—2.10 cm.
 Anther length.—3 mm.
 Anther color.—162B becoming 181D after pollen loss.
 Pollen color.—162B.
 Pollen quantity.—Moderate.
 Pistil.—One in number.
 Pistil length.—2 cm.
 Pistil color.—155B.
 Pistil shape.—Filament.
 Stigma shape.—4-lobed.

Stigma color.—160C.
 Stigma width.—3 mm.
 Ovary position.—Inferior.
 Ovary color.—138D.
 Ovary shape.—Ovoid.
 Ovary dimensions.—3 mm in height and 2 mm in width.
Seed production: No seed observed to date.
What is claimed is:
 1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Gaura* plant named ‘WALSNOFOU’ as described and illustrated herein.

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FIG. 1

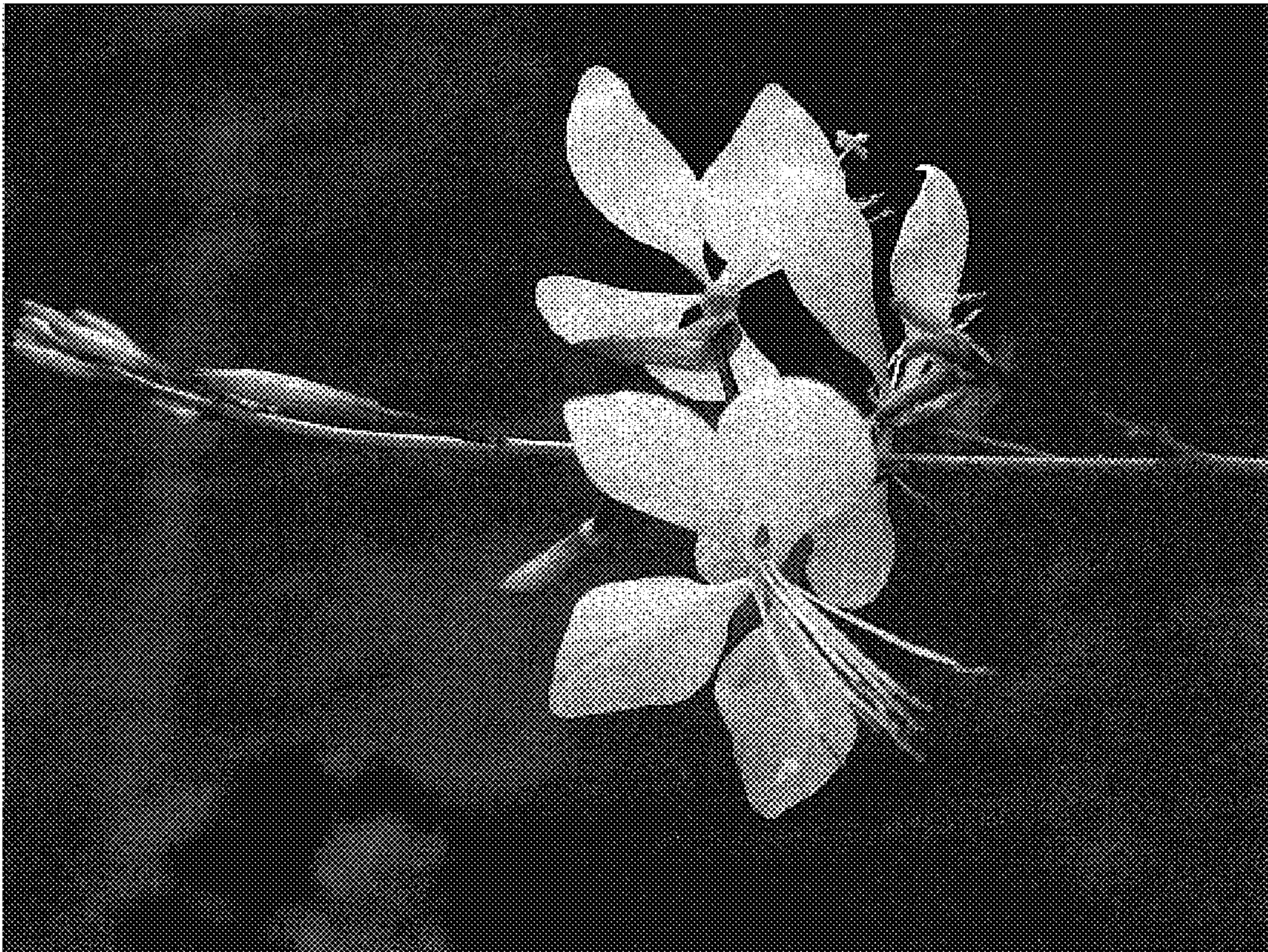


FIG. 2