US00PP19424P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Stemkens

(10) **Patent No.: US PP19,424 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Nov. 4, 2008**

(54) ***VERBENA* PLANT NAMED 'POENA'**

(50) Latin Name: ***Verbena×hybrida***
Varietal Denomination: **Poena**

(75) Inventor: **Henricus G. W. Stemkens**, Andijk (NL)

(73) Assignee: **Syngenta Seeds B.V.**, Enkhuizen (NL)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/002,391**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 17, 2007**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./308**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./308
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP12,218 P2 * 11/2001 Stemkens Plt./308

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Wendy C. Haas
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—S. Matthew Edwards

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Verbena* plant, substantially an herein illustrated and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by its deep rose flowers, which appear earlier on the plant, and a growing habit that is upright.

1 Drawing Sheet

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed: *Verbena×hybrida.*
Varietal denomination: 'Poena'.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena,* botanically known as *Verbena×hybrida.*

The new *Verbena×hybrida* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The new *Verbena* plant is particularly distinguished by its deep rose flower color, early flowering, and a spreading habit that is at first semi-erect and later spreading.

The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the open pollination of 'F0132-1' and an unknown parent. 'F0132-1' is a scarlet flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. 'F0132-1' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. The male parent is unknown. 'F0132-1' has not been patented.

As a result of this open pollination the present cultivar was created in 2003 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatic zones in the US, except in zones 8, 9 and 10, where it is a perennial plant.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Verbena.* The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 14 week old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse.

Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

TABLE 1

Differences between the new cultivar 'Poena', its parent and the most resembling variety

	'POENA'	'F0132-1'	'Salmena' U.S. Plant Patent No. 12,218)
Flower color	Deep rose	Rose	Salmon pink
Earliness	Early	Early	Late
Internode length	Short	Short	Very long
Plantsize	Compact	Compact	Big

The plant:

Classification.—Botanical : *Verbena×hybrida.*
Parentage.—Female parent : 'F0132-1'. Pollen parent : Unknown.
Growth habit.—Semi-upright.
Plant height.—14–20 cm.
Spreading area of plant.—35–65 cm.
Growth rate.—Hanging and vigorous.
Branching character.—Freely branching and lateral branching at every node.
Blooming period.—From April until November.

The stem:

Diameter.—2.5–3 mm.
Shape.—Tetragonal.
Anthocyan pigmentation.—Absent.
Color.—146B.

Length of internode.—20–40 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagated.
Pubescence.—Pubescence is present.

The foliage:

Phyllotaxis.—Opposite.
Shape of blade.—Broadly ovate.
Texture.—Upper side : Pubescent. Lower side : Pubescent.
Venation.—Pinnate.
Leaf margin.—Simple incised.
Leaf base.—Shortly attenuate.
Leaf apex.—Acute.
Length.—25–40 mm.
Width.—18–30 mm.
Depth of incision.—2–4 mm.
Color.—Upper side : 137A. Lower side : 137C.
Pubescence.—Some pubescence is present.
Length of leaf stem.—5–12 mm.
Petiole surface structure.—Slightly pubescent.

The bud:

Peduncle length.—30–60 mm, depending on season.
Size.—Diameter : 2 mm. Length : 8–12 mm.
Shape.—Elongated and ovate.
Colour.—137D.
Sepals.—Color : 138B. Form : Upright. Number : 5, fused. Size : 5 mm. Shape : Elongated.

The flower:

Facing direction.—Upward.
Outward curvature of petal.—Slightly curved.
Diameter.—20 mm.
Height.—18–20 mm.
Borne.—In a cluster.
Form.—Salverform; sessile on terminal spikes.
Cluster.—Spike.
Color.—N66A.
Eye.—A very small (1 mm) whitish eye (155C) is present. Typically three out of the five petals exhibit this whitish coloration.
Overlapping of petals.—Separate.
Number of petals.—Gamopetalous, 5 lobed.
Shape of the petals.—Each petal is heart shaped at the apex and grown together at the base.
Petal margin.—Entire.
Petal surface texture.—Smooth.
Size of the petal.—Length : 6–8 mm. Width : 6–8 mm.
Spike.—Length : 25–35 mm. Diameter 30–45 mm.
Calyx length.—8–10 mm.
Anthocyan pigmentation of calyx limb.—Absent.
Color of the calyx.—137A.
Number of flowers per spike.—20–25.
Fragrance.—A very light rosy fragrance occurs.
Lastingness of the bloom.—New florets continue to open in one spike over a period of 14 days.
Lastingness of one flower.—9 days on the plant and 3 hours off the plant.

Reproductive organs

Androecium.—Stamens quantity : 4. Anther shape : Ovoid. Anther length : 1 mm. Anther color : 144D. Pollen amount : Scarce pollen. Pollen color : 145D.
Gynoecium.—Pistil quantity : 1. Pistil length : 18–22 mm. Stigma shape : Bi-lobed. Stigma color : 144C. Style length : 14–18 mm. Style color : 144D. Ovary color : 144C.

Seed development: No seed set has been observed to date.

Physiological and ecological characteristics: Good tolerance to heat and cold, from 2–36 degrees. No resistance to diseases common in *Verbena* has been observed to date.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Verbena* plant named 'Poena,' as substantially illustrated and described herein.

* * * * *