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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Meerlo(10) **Patent No.:** US PP25,559 P2
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- (54) **LAVENDER PLANT NAMED 'MEERLO'**
- (50) Latin Name: *Lavandula allardii*
Varietal Denomination: Meerlo
- (71) Applicant: **Louis Meerlo**, Waiuku (NZ)
- (72) Inventor: **Louis Meerlo**, Waiuku (NZ)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 114 days.
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- (51) **Int. Cl.**
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- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./445**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Annette Para

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of Lavender plant named 'Meerlo' that is characterized by variegated leaves that have a grey-green center with creamy yellow colored margins.

1 Drawing Sheet**1**

Botanical classification: *Lavandula allardii*.
Variety denomination: 'Meerlo'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Lavender plant botanically known as *Lavandula allardii* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Meerlo'.

The new cultivar was discovered in 2011 growing in population of unidentified *Lavandula allardii* plants. The exact parent plants are unknown. 'Meerlo' was discovered as a single plant in a greenhouse in a cultivated area of Waiuku, New Zealand.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar 'Meerlo' by terminal cuttings was first performed in 2011 in Waiuku, New Zealand. Since that time, under careful observation, the unique characteristics of the new cultivar have been uniform, stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following represent the distinguishing characteristics of the new Lavender cultivar 'Meerlo'. These traits in combination distinguish 'Meerlo' as a new and distinct cultivar.

1. Lavender 'Meerlo' exhibits variegated leaves that have a grey-green center with creamy yellow colored margins.

The closest comparison cultivar is Lavender 'African Pride'. 'Meerlo' is different than 'African Pride' in having variegated leaves that have a grey-green center with creamy yellow margins. In comparison, the leaves of 'African Pride' are a single grey-green color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photograph illustrates the distinguishing traits of Lavender 'Meerlo'. The plant in the photograph shows an overall view of a 12 month old plant. The photograph was taken using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance it is as accurate as possible by conventional photographic techniques.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new Lavender cultivar named 'Meerlo'. Data was collected in Waiuku, New

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Zealand from 12 month old greenhouse grown plants. The time of year was Summer and the average temperature was 20 to 28° Centigrade during the day and 9 to 18° Centigrade at night. Color determinations are in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. The growing requirements are similar to the species. 'Meerlo' has not been tested under all possible conditions and phenotypic differences may be observed with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, however, without any variance in genotype.

Botanical classification: *Lavandula allardii* 'Meerlo'.

Use: Ornamental Perennial.

Parentage: The exact parent plants of 'Meerlo' are unknown.

15 Vigor: Moderate.

Container size: 9 cm. and larger.

Growth habit: Upright, outwardly spreading.

Plant shape: Rounded with erect flower spikes.

Height: Average 90 cm. in height.

20 Width: Average 120 cm. in width.

Hardiness: -9° to 38° C.

Propagation: Terminal cuttings.

Crop time: 8 months.

25 Stem:

Branching habit.—Free branching.

Number of lateral branches.—Approximately 80.

Lateral branch diameter.—6 mm. in diameter.

Lateral branch length.—62 cm. in length.

Lateral branch strength.—Strong.

Color.—191B.

Pubescence.—Lightly covered with short hairs.

Internode length.—4.6 cm. between nodes.

Shape.—Round.

30 Foliage:

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Compound or single.—Single.

Quantity of leaves per lateral branch.—50.

Leaf shape.—Linear.

Leaf apex.—Acute.

Leaf base.—Rounded.

Leaf length.—7.5 cm. in length.

Leaf width.—8.2 mm. in width.

Texture.—Velvety.

Pubescence.—Present.

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<i>Leaf margin.</i> —Entire.		Sepals:
<i>Vein pattern.</i> —Pinnate.		<i>Sepal number.</i> —5.
<i>Young leaf color (upper surface).</i> —191A with margins 10D.		<i>Sepal shape.</i> —Linear.
<i>Young leaf color (lower surface).</i> —191A with margins 10D.	5	<i>Sepal apex.</i> —Acute.
<i>Mature leaf color (upper surface).</i> —191A with margins 10D.		<i>Sepal base.</i> —Fused.
<i>Mature leaf color (lower surface).</i> —191A with margins 10D.		<i>Sepal margin.</i> —Entire.
<i>Vein color (both surfaces).</i> —191A.		<i>Sepal texture (both surfaces).</i> —Velvety.
<i>Leaf attachment.</i> —Sessile.		<i>Sepal dimensions.</i> —7 mm. in length and 1 mm. in width.
<i>Flower:</i>		<i>Sepal color (both surfaces).</i> —N88B.
<i>Flower arrangement.</i> —Terminal cylindrical spikes.		10 Peduncle:
<i>Inflorescence dimensions.</i> —12 to 15 cm. in length and 2 to 2.5 cm. in diameter.	15	<i>Peduncle dimensions.</i> —42 to 57 cm. in length and 2.5 mm. in diameter.
<i>Quantity of flowers and buds per inflorescence.</i> —86- 112.		<i>Peduncle angle.</i> —Vertical.
<i>Quantity of inflorescences per plant.</i> —13.		<i>Peduncle color.</i> —133C.
<i>Flowering season.</i> —Spring to Summer.	20	<i>Peduncle strength.</i> —Medium.
<i>Time to flower or response time.</i> —4 to 6 weeks after buds form.		Bracts:
<i>Fragrance.</i> —Musk scent.		<i>Bract arrangement.</i> —At the base of successive whorls of flowers.
<i>Self-cleaning or persistent.</i> —Self cleaning.		<i>Bract shape.</i> —Elongate Rhomboidal.
<i>Flower bud length.</i> —6.3-7.9 mm.	25	<i>Bract apex.</i> —Acuminate.
<i>Flower bud diameter.</i> —1.6-2.3 mm.		<i>Bract base.</i> —Acuminate.
<i>Flower bud shape.</i> —Fusiform.		<i>Bract margin.</i> —Entire.
<i>Bud color.</i> —N88B.		<i>Bract texture (both surfaces).</i> —Velvety.
<i>Flower aspect.</i> —Diagonally upward.		<i>Bract dimensions.</i> —2 to 6 mm. in length and 2 to 9 mm. in width.
<i>Flower shape.</i> —Salverform.	30	<i>Bract color (both surfaces).</i> —85A with midrib 143B.
<i>Flower dimensions.</i> —6.1 mm. in width and 13.1 mm. in length.		Reproductive organs:
<i>Flower longevity.</i> —Lasts approximately 20 to 25 days.		<i>Stamen number.</i> —4.
<i>Petal arrangement.</i> —Rotate with five petals fused into a tube.	35	<i>Anther shape.</i> —Dorsifixed, kidney shaped.
<i>Lobe shape.</i> —Spathulate.		<i>Anther length.</i> —0.3 mm.
<i>Petal margin.</i> —Entire.		<i>Amount of pollen.</i> —Moderate.
<i>Petal apex.</i> —Rounded.		<i>Pistil number.</i> —1.
<i>Petal texture (both surfaces).</i> —Velvety.		<i>Pistil length.</i> —6.75 mm.
<i>Unfused lobe dimensions.</i> —3.3 mm. in length and 2.3 mm. in width.	40	<i>Stigma shape.</i> —Club shaped.
<i>Petal color when opening (upper side).</i> —92A.		<i>Style length.</i> —5.75 mm.
<i>Petal color when opening (under side).</i> —92A.		<i>Ovary color.</i> —138A.
<i>Petal color when fully opened (upper side).</i> —92A.		Fruit and seed production: Plants of the new Lavender have not been observed for fruit and seed production.
<i>Petal color when fully opened (under side).</i> —92A.	45	Disease and pest resistance: Plants of the new Lavender have not been observed for disease or pest resistance.

The invention claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of Lavender plant named 'Meerlo' as described and illustrated.

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