



US00PP25561P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP25,561 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 12, 2015**

(54) **MONARDA PLANT NAMED ‘BALBALMURP’**

(50) Latin Name: *Monarda didyma*
Varietal Denomination: **Balbalmurp**

(71) Applicant: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

(72) Inventor: **Scott Trees**, Arroyo Grande, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Ball Horticultural Company**, West
Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 86 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/987,860**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 9, 2013**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./455**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC *A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00*
USPC **Plt./455**
See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner — Kent L Bell

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Audrey Charles

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Monarda* plant named ‘Balbalmurp’, characterized by its dark red-purple colored flowers, dark green-colored foliage having good powdery mildew resistance, and moderately vigorous, upright-compact growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed:
Monarda didyma.

Variety denomination: ‘Balbalmurp’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Monarda* plant botanically known as *Monarda didyma* and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Balbalmurp’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Guadalupe, Calif. during May 2008. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Monarda* cultivars that are early flowering, have good powdery mildew resistance, and a compact growth habit.

The new *Monarda* cultivar is the result of cross-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is ‘Pink Lace’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,367, characterized by its red-purple colored inflorescences, dark green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, compact-upright growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is Grande Parade ‘Acrade’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,580, characterized by its purple-violet colored inflorescences, dark green-colored foliage, and vigorous, mounded growth habit. The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during September 2009 in a controlled environment in Guadalupe, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since September 2009 in Guadalupe, Calif. and Elburn, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and retained through successive generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish ‘Balbalmurp’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Monarda* plant:

1. Dark purple colored flowers;
2. Dark green-colored foliage having good powdery mildew resistance; and
3. Moderately vigorous, upright-compact growth habit.

2

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in flower color and from plants of the male parent primarily in flower color and growth vigor.

Of the many commercially available *Monarda* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is ‘Pardon My Purple’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,170. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Pardon My Purple’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a flower color different from plants of ‘Pardon My Purple’; and
2. Plants of the new cultivar have smaller diameter inflorescences than plants of ‘Pardon My Purple’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed description, which accurately describes the colors of ‘Balbalmurp’. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in 1-gallon containers for approximately 36 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. This time period includes an approximately 12 week dormant period. Plants were pinched at time of transplant and again after 4 weeks of growth.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of ‘Balbalmurp’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual inflorescence of ‘Balbalmurp’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2007 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in June 2013 under natural light conditions in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown in a glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown in Elburn, Ill. in 1-gallon containers for approximately 36 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. This time period includes an approximately 12 week dormant period. Plants were pinched at time of transplant and again after 4 weeks of growth. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 50° F. to 70° F. (10.0° C. to 21.1° C.) during the day and approximately 35° F. to 50° F. (1.7° C. to 10.0° C.) during the night. No supplemental lighting was provided. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plants.

Botanical classification: *Monarda didyma* cultivar Balbalmurp.

Parentage:

Female parent.—‘Pink Lace’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,367.

Male parent.—Grande Parade ‘Acrade’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 19,580.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 7 to 10 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 28 to 35 days.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous white to brown in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 12 to 14 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 15 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Moderately vigorous, upright-compact.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 34.5 cm. Width: Approximately 43.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Pinching enhances lateral branching. Quantity of branches per plant: Approximately 6.

Branch.—Shape: Square in cross section. Strength: Strong. Length to base of inflorescence: Approximately 29.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 3.0 cm. Texture: Moderately pubescent on edges. Color of young stems: 146C. Color of mature stems: 146B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per branch: Approximately 14. Fragrance: Strong, sage-like. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Aspect: Perpendicular to obtuse angle to stem. Shape: Ovate to Lanceolate. Margin: Serrate. Apex: Acute. Base: Rounded. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 7.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.2 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Slightly rugose, densely pubescent. Color of upper surface of young foliage: Closest to N137A with venation of 146C. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to

137B with venation of 146D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 137A with venation of 146C.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 7.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: 146C.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—‘Balbalmurp’ is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions blooming from late spring through early summer.

Lastingness of individual flower.—Approximately 5 to 7 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Dense terminal verticillasters, not persistent, facing upward and outward. Quantity of inflorescences per plant: Approximately 14. Fragrance: Strong, sage-like. Depth or height of inflorescence: Approximately 4.0 cm. Width of inflorescence: Approximately 5.5 cm, expands to approximately 6.0 cm as innermost flowers senesce. Quantity of fully-open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 42.

Peduncle.—Shape: Square in cross section. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 1.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture: Moderately pubescent on edges. Color: 146C.

Flower description:

Type.—Single, bilabiate.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 2 to 3 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Tubular, upper portion strongly recurved. Length: Approximately 1.8 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.5 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: 83A.

Corolla.—Shape: Two lips, upper lip hooded; lower lip, a single lobe; lips fused. Depth (height): Approximately 3.4 cm. Width: Approximately 6.0 mm. Length: Approximately 1.7 cm.

Upper lip.—Shape: Linear, hooded. Aspect: Erect. Margin: Entire. Apex: Two acute tips. Length: Approximately 1.5 cm. Width: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Densely pubescent. Color of inner surface when first and fully open: N78B. Color of outer surface when first and fully open: N78A.

Lower lip.—Shape: Oblanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Notched lobe at apex about 4.0 mm in length and 1.0 mm in width. Length: Approximately 1.7 cm. Width: Approximately 6.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Densely pubescent. Color of upper surface when first and fully open: N78A. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: N78B.

Corolla tube.—Length: Approximately 1.9 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Densely pubescent. Color: N78A.

Calyx.—Shape: Tubular. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: 5, fused except for acuminate apex of 1.0 mm in length having an entire margin. Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Width: Less than 1.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Sparsely pubescent. Texture of outer surface: Densely pubescent. Color of inner surface: 145B with tips of 187A. Color of outer surface: 145A with tips of 187A.

Bracts.—Quantity: Approximately 25 per inflorescence in multiple whorls. Shape: Ovate to narrowly ovate. Length of larger: Approximately 4.0 cm. Width of larger: Approximately 1.7 cm. Length of smaller: Approximately 1.0 cm. Width of smaller: Less than 1.0 mm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Densely pubescent. Color of upper surface of larger bracts: Closest to 139A with center of base of 139D. Color of lower surface of larger bracts: 137B. Color of upper and lower surfaces of smaller bracts: 139D with tips of 187A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 2 per flower, dorsifixed. Filament length: Approximately 3.1 cm. Filament length of fixed portion: Approximately 1.5 cm. Filament color: NN155D, opaque with an overlay of N81B near anther. Anther shape: Narrowly elliptic to oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 83C. Pollen

amount: Moderate. Pollen color: NN155D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 3.7 cm. Stigma shape: Cleft, two-parted. Stigma length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Stigma color: 83A. Style length: Approximately 3.4 cm. Style color: NN155D, opaque with an overlay of 83A near stigma. Ovary length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Ovary color: 158B.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Monarda* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

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

* * * * *



FIG. 1

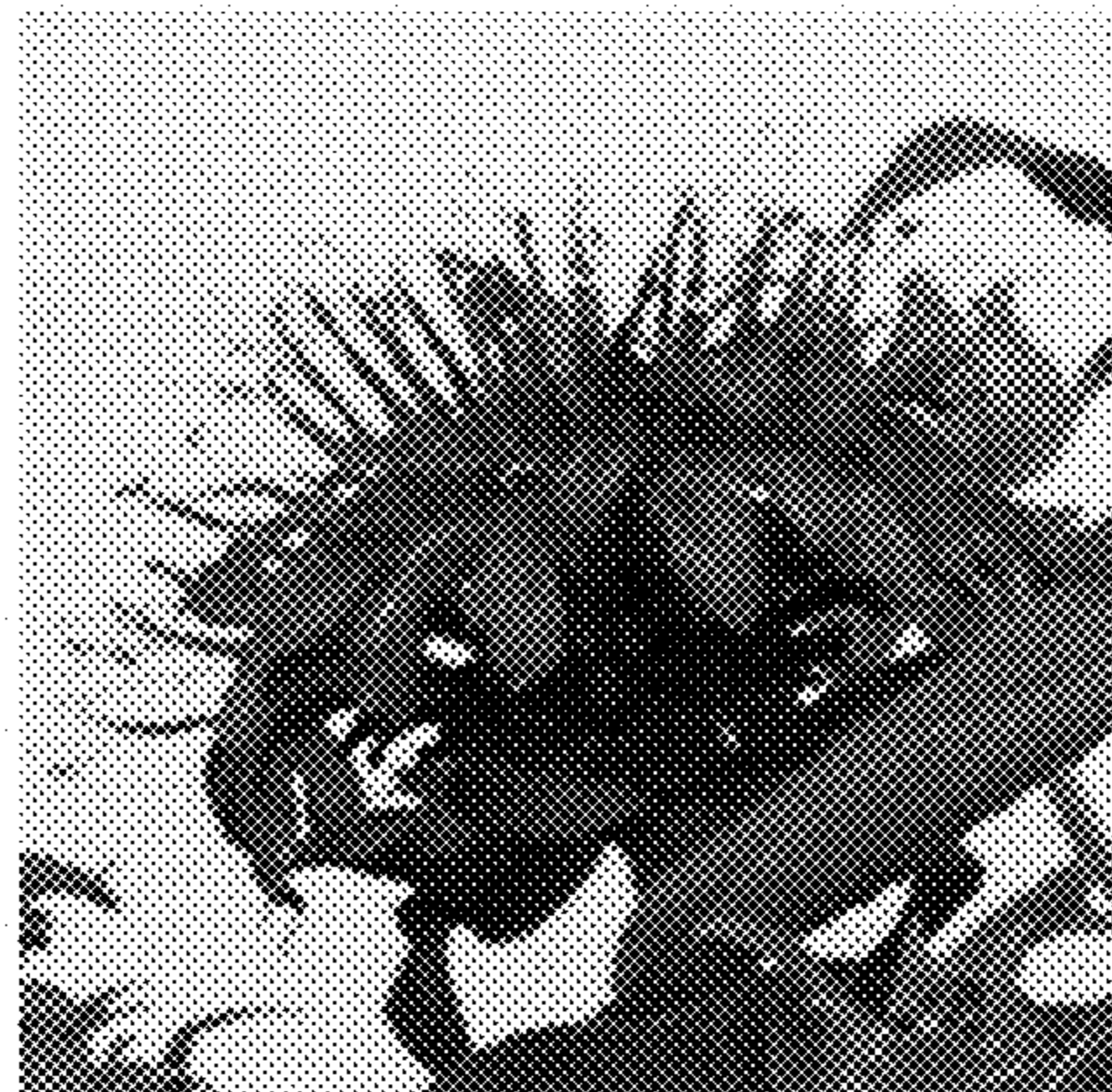


FIG. 2