

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP25,915 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 22, 2015**

(54) **LAURUS PLANT NAMED ‘MONRIK’**

(50) Latin Name: *Laurus nobilis*

Varietal Denomination: **MonRik**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 57 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/999,080**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 10, 2014**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC **Plt./226**

CPC **A01H 5/12; A01H 5/02; A01H 5/00**

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Laurus* plant named ‘MonRik’,
characterized by its compact, upright to somewhat outwardly
spreading and uniformly mounded plant habit; vigorous
growth habit; freely branching habit; fragrant dark green-
colored leaves; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Laurus nobilis*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘MONRIK’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Laurus*, botanically known as *Laurus nobilis*, commonly
referred to as Sweet Bay and hereinafter referred to by the
name ‘MonRik’.

The new *Laurus* plant originated from an open-pollination
in Dayton, Oreg. of an unnamed selection of *Laurus nobilis*,
not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown
selection of *Laurus nobilis* as the male, or pollen, parent. The
new *Laurus* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor
as a single plant from within the progeny of the stated open-
pollination in a controlled environment in Dayton, Oreg. dur-
ing the autumn of 2010.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Laurus* plant by vegeta-
tive cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Day-
ton, Oreg. since June, 2011 has shown that the unique features
of this new *Laurus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type
in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new *Laurus* plant has not been observed under all
possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The
phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environ-
mental conditions 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 ‘MonRik’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘MonRik’ as
a new and distinct *Laurus* plant:

1. Compact, upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and
uniformly mounded plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Fragrant dark green-colored leaves.
5. Good garden performance.

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Plants of the new *Laurus* differ from plants of the female
parent selection primarily in plant size and habit.

Plants of the new *Laurus* can be compared to plants of
unnamed selections of *Laurus nobilis* known to the Inventor,
not patented. Plants of the new *Laurus* differ from plants of
unnamed selections of *Laurus nobilis* known to the Inventor
primarily in plant size and habit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance of the new *Laurus* 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 *Laurus*.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side
perspective view of a typical plant of ‘MonRik’ grown in a
container.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet is a close-up
view of typical leaves of ‘MonRik’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observa-
tions, measurements and values describe plants grown during
the late autumn in two-gallon containers in an outdoor nurs-
ery in Dayton, Oreg. and under cultural practices typical of
commercial *Laurus* production. During the production of the
plants, day temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 32° C. and
night temperatures ranged from –1° C. to 10° C. Plants were
2.5 years old when the photographs and the description were
taken. In the description, color references are made to The
Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition,
except where general terms of ordinary dictionary signifi-
cance are used.

Botanical classification: *Laurus nobilis* ‘MonRik’.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Laurus*
nobilis, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Laurus nobilis*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative cuttings.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 5
one month at temperatures about 27° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About
two months at temperatures about 18° C.

Root description.—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white 10
to yellow in color.

Rooting habit.—Moderately freely branching; medium
density.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial; compact, 15
upright to somewhat outwardly spreading and uni-
formly mounded plant habit; freely branching habit,
about five to six primary lateral branches develop per
plant; vigorous growth habit.

Plant height.—About 32 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 35 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 34 cm. Diameter:
About 7 mm. Internode length: About 1.7 cm.
Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous; becom-
ing woody with development. Color, young stems:
Close to 187A; color becoming closer to 147B with
development. Color, woody stems: Close to N199A.

Leaf description:

Arrangement.—Alternate, simple.

Length.—About 7.7 cm.

Width.—About 2.2 cm.

Shape.—Narrowly elliptical.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Attenuate.

Margin.—Entire; crinkled.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous;
leathery and tough.

Luster, upper surface.—Slightly glossy.

Luster, lower surface.—Matte.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Fragrance.—Mildly fragrant; bay-like, pleasant; suit-
able for culinary uses.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to
146C. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to
146D. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to
146A; venation, close to 152B. Fully expanded
leaves, lower surface: Close to 146B; venation, close
to 152B and towards the petiole, close to 183B.

Petioles.—Length: About 6 mm. Diameter: About 2
mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, gla-
brous. Color, upper surface: Close to 187B. Color,
lower surface: Close to 187A.

20 *Flower description:* Flower initiation and development has
not been observed on plants of the new *Laurus*.

Disease & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Laurus* have not
been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common
to *Laurus*.

25 *Garden performance:* Plants of the new *Laurus* have been
observed to have good garden performance and tolerate
rain, wind and suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones 8
through 11.

It is claimed:

30 1. A new and distinct *Laurus* plant named 'MonRik' as
illustrated and described.

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