



US00PP26843P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP26,843 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 21, 2016**

(54) **LAGERSTROEMIA PLANT NAMED**
‘MILAROSSO’

(50) Latin Name: *Lagerstroemia indica*
Varietal Denomination: **Milarosso**

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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 69 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/544,051**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 19, 2014**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./226
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PLUTO Plant Variety Database Mar. 17, 2016.p. 1.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Lagerstroemia indica* plant named
‘Milarosso’ that is characterized by its well-branched plant
habit, its early and long lasting bloom period, its flowers that
are dark pink in color, its good tolerance to powdery mildew,
and its good frost resistance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Lagerstroemia indica*.
Variety denomination: ‘Milarosso’.

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application is co-pending with a U.S. Plant Patent
Applications filed for plants derived from the Inventor’s
breeding program that are entitled *Lagerstroemia* Plant
Named ‘Milavio’ (U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No.
14/544,052), ‘Milarosa’ (U.S. Plant patent application Ser.
No. 14/544,051), ‘Milabla’ (U.S. Plant patent application Ser.
No. 14/544,046), and ‘Milaperl’ (U.S. Plant patent applica-
tion Ser. No. 14/544,053).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Lagerstroemia indica*. The new *Lagerstroemia* will here-
after by its cultivar name, ‘Milarosso’. ‘Milarosso’ is a new
cultivar of deciduous shrub grown for use as an ornamental
landscape plant.

The new cultivar of *Lagerstroemia* is the result of a con-
trolled breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Ver-
temate con Minoprio, Italy. ‘Milarosso’ originated as a seed-
ling that arose from seeds that were pooled and sown in 1998
from open pollination of 33 unnamed and unpatented propri-
etary plants in the Inventor’s breeding program, designated as
breeding line No. 53.31. ‘Milarosso’ was selected as a single
unique plant in 1999 from amongst the resulting seedlings.
The exact parent plants are unknown.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by the Inventor using stem cuttings in 1999 in Ver-
temate con Minoprio, Italy. Asexual propagation by stem

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cuttings has determined that the characteristics of the new
cultivar are stable and are reproduced true to type in succes-
sive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish ‘Milarosso’ as a unique
cultivar of *Lagerstroemia*.

1. ‘Milarosso’ exhibits a well-branched plant habit.
2. ‘Milarosso’ exhibits an early and long lasting bloom
period; flowering from the end of June to the end of
August in Northern Italy.
3. ‘Milarosso’ exhibits flowers that are dark pink in color.
4. ‘Milarosso’ exhibits good tolerance to powdery mildew.
5. ‘Milarosso’ exhibits good frost resistance; withstanding
temperatures at least as low as -15° C.

‘Milarosso’ can be most closely compared to *Lagerstroemia*
indica cultivars ‘Milabla’, ‘Milaperl’, ‘Milarosa’, and
‘Milavio’. ‘Milabla’ differs from ‘Milarosso’ in having flow-
ers that are white in color. ‘Milaperl’ differs from ‘Milarosso’
in having flowers that are pale pink in color. ‘Milarosa’ differs
from ‘Milarosso’ in having flowers that open light pink in
color and mature to a deeper pink. ‘Milavio’ differs from
‘Milarosso’ in having flowers that are violet in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance and distinct characteristics of the new *Lager-*
stroemia. The photographs were taken of a plant two years in
age as grown outdoors in a 2-liter container in Zundert, The
Netherlands.

The photograph in FIG. 1 provides a side view of
‘Milarosso’ in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of inflorescences of 'Milarosso'.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the foliage of 'Milarosso'.

The colors in the photographs are as close as possible with the digital photography techniques available, the color values cited in the detailed botanical description accurately describe the colors of the new *Lagerstroemia*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The descriptions were taken of plants two years in age as grown outdoors in 2-liter containers in Zundert, The Netherlands. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions, as it has not been tested under all possible environmental conditions. The color determination is in accordance with The 2007 R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

General description:

Blooming period.—From the end of June through the end of August in Northern Italy.

Plant type.—Deciduous shrub.

Plant habit.—Upright and well-branched.

Height and spread.—An average of 40.0 cm in height and 44.5 cm in spread at two years of age in a 2-liter container.

Cold hardiness.—At least to U.S.D.A. Zone 8a.

Diseases and pests.—Good tolerance to powdery mildew caused by *Erysiphe lagerstroemia* has been observed.

Root description.—Fibrous and fine.

Root development.—Roots in 6 weeks and fully develop in a 9-cm container in about 4 months.

Growth rate.—Moderate.

Stem description:

Shape.—Quadrangulate with rounded wings.

Stem color.—N199C with wings N170A.

Stem size.—An average of 22.2 cm in length and 3 mm in diameter.

Stem surface.—Slightly glossy.

Stem strength.—Strong.

Branching.—An average of 15 lateral branches, freely branching.

Internode length.—An average of 2.6 cm.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Ovate to elliptic.

Leaf division.—Single.

Leaf base.—Attenuate.

Leaf apex.—Acute to broadly acute.

Leaf venation.—Pinnate, color; upper surface 152A and lower surface 147C.

Leaf margins.—Entire.

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Leaf surface.—Both surfaces glabrous and moderately glossy.

Leaf size.—An average of 4.3 cm in length and 2.7 cm in width.

Leaf quantity.—An average of 18 (9 pairs) per branch.

Leaf color.—Young leaves upper surface; 144A, young leaves lower surface; 146C to 146D, mature growth upper surface; a blend between 146A and 147B tinged

with 184A at the margins, mature growth lower surface 147C tinged with 184A at the margins.

Leaf fragrance.—Fragrance typical for *Lagerstroemia* detected when touched.

Petioles.—An average of 1 mm in length and width and 147C in color, slightly glossy surface.

Flower description:

Inflorescence type.—Terminal thyse.

Lastingness of inflorescence.—About one week.

Inflorescence size.—An average of 9.9 cm in height and 10.0 cm in width.

Inflorescence number.—An average of 5 per lateral stem.

Flower number.—An average of 30 flowers per inflorescence.

Flower fragrance.—Faint sweet scent.

Flower buds.—Globular in shape, an average of 7.5 mm in diameter and 8 mm in depth, glabrous surface, color; 145B suffused with 174B, 199C to 199D at apex.

Flower aspect.—Upright to outward.

Flower type.—Rotate.

Flower size.—An average of 4.8 cm in diameter and 2.3 mm in depth.

Petals.—An average of 6, reniform in shape, strongly undulate bidentate margins, stalked base, praemorse apex, both surfaces glabrous and dull, an average of 2.2 cm in length and 1.3 cm in width, color when opening upper and lower surface 67C with stalk 60C, color when fully open upper and lower surface; 68A with stalk 60C, petal color does not fade.

Calyx.—Rotate in shape, an average of 1.1 cm in length and 1.2 cm in diameter.

Sepals.—An average of 6 petals, rotate arrangement, fused at base, rhomboidal in shape, entire margins, acuminate apex, both surfaces smooth and dull, an average of 1.1 mm in length and 4 mm in width, color; upper surface when opening and when fully open 150C strongly suffused with 180A to 180B at base, lower surface when opening and when fully open 174B with top half 199D.

Peduncles.—Strong, an average of 4.6 cm in length and 0.2 mm in width, 177D in color, surface is slightly glossy, main peduncles held at an average angle of 0° to the lateral branch, secondary peduncles held at an average angle of 30° to the lateral branch.

Pedicels.—Strong, an average of 8 mm in length and 1 mm in width, 152D in color, surface is slightly glossy, main pedicels held at an average angle of 0° to the lateral branch, secondary pedicels held at an average angle of 30° to the lateral branch.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens.—Average of 40, anther; an average of 2 mm in length, dorsifixed, narrow oblong in shape, 165B in color, filament; an average of 1.2 cm in length and 145D in color, pollen is moderate in quantity and 9B in color.

Pistils.—An average of 1, an average of 1.9 cm in length, style; an average of 1.8 cm in length and 176B in color, stigma is club-shaped and 166A to 166B in color, ovary is 151D in color.

Seed and fruit.—None observed.

It is claimed:
1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Lagerstroemia* plant
named 'Milarosso' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3