

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

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(54) **AGAPANTHUS PLANT NAMED ‘MP003’**

(50) Latin Name: *Agapanthus* hybrid  
Varietal Denomination: **MP003**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Agapanthus*, ‘MP003’, that is character-  
ized by flowers that are vivid purple in color, its fast growth  
habit, its extended blooming period with re-bloom through-  
out the year, and its good resistance to root and crown rot  
caused by *Fusarium* sp. and soft rot caused by *Erwinia* sp.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical classification: *Agapanthus* hybrid.  
Varietal denomination: ‘MP003’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Agapanthus* of hybrid origin and will be referred to  
hereafter by its cultivar name, ‘MP003’. ‘MP003’ represents  
a new perennial grown for landscape use.

The new cultivar was derived from a controlled breeding  
program by the Inventor in Hartebeespoort, Northwest Prov-  
ince, South Africa. The objective of the breeding program  
was to develop a new cultivar of *Agapanthus* that had a more  
compact plant habit combined with purple flowers and a  
vigorous growth habit. The Inventor made a cross in  
November of 2008 between unnamed proprietary plants of  
*Agapanthus* from the Inventor’s breeding program as both  
the female parent and male parent. The Inventor selected  
‘MP003’ in November of 2012 (first selected in 2010 for  
further evaluation) as a single unique plant amongst the  
seedlings that resulted from the above cross.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-  
plished by division by the Inventor in Hartebeespoort,  
Northwest Province, South Africa in January of 2013. Asexual  
propagation by division and tissue culture has determined  
that the characteristics of the new cultivar are stable and  
are reproduced true to type in successive genera-  
tions.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. The char-  
acteristics in combination distinguish ‘MP003’ as a distinct  
cultivar of *Agapanthus*.

1. ‘MP003’ exhibits flowers that are vivid purple in color.
2. ‘MP003’ exhibits a fast growth habit.
3. ‘MP003’ exhibits an extended blooming period with  
re-bloom throughout the year.

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4. ‘MP003’ exhibits good resistance to root and crown rot  
caused by *Fusarium* sp. and soft rot caused by *Erwinia*  
sp.

The female parent of ‘MP003’ differs from ‘MP003’ in  
having flowers that are pale purple in color. The male parent  
of ‘MP003’ differs from ‘MP003’ in having lower inflores-  
cence production and a taller plant height. ‘MP003’ can be  
most closely compared to the *Agapanthus* cultivars ‘Purple  
Delight’ (not patented) and ‘Amethyst’ (not patented).  
‘Purple Delight’ and ‘Amethyst’ are similar to ‘MP003’ in  
having flowers that are purple in color. ‘Purple Delight’  
differs from ‘MP003’ in having a slower growing habit, pale  
purple flower color and less inflorescence production and  
re-blooming. ‘Amethyst’ differs from ‘MP003’ in having  
flowers that are pale purple in color, a smaller plant size and  
less re-blooming.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
overall appearance and distinct characteristics of the new  
*Agapanthus*. The photographs were taken of plants about 2  
years in age (from a bare root division) of ‘MDB001’ as  
grown outdoors in a 3-gallon container in Hartebeespoort,  
Northwest Province, South Africa.

The photograph in FIG. 1 provides a side view of a plant  
of ‘MP003’ in bloom.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a close-up view of an  
inflorescence of ‘MP003’.

The colors in the photographs are as close as possible with  
the photographic and printing technology utilized and color  
values cited in the detailed botanical description accurately  
describe the colors of the new *Agapanthus*.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The following is a detailed description of 1 year-old plants  
(from a bare root division) of ‘MP003’ as grown outdoors in  
3-gallon containers in Loxley, Ala. 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 determinations are in accordance with The 2015 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.*—Main blooming period is early to mid summer and re-blooms throughout the year in South Africa.

*Plant type.*—Semi-deciduous (climate dependent) herbaceous perennial.

*Plant habit.*—Compact with broad, short leaves emerging from basal rosettes with inflorescences emerging from the rosette centers.

*Height and spread.*—30 to 40 cm in height (foliage), 50 to 60 cm in height (including inflorescences) and 45 to 50 cm in spread.

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

*Diseases.*—Good resistance has been observed to root and crown rot caused by *Fusarium* sp. and soft rot caused by *Erwinia* sp.

*Root description.*—Thick and fleshy, 145D in color.

*Propagation.*—Tissue culture (preferred) and division.

*Growth rate.*—Vigorous.

*Number of shoots (rosettes).*—An average of 10 as grown in a 3-gallon container.

Foliage description:

*Leaf shape.*—Ligulate.

*Leaf division.*—Simple.

*Leaf base.*—Truncate.

*Leaf arrangement.*—2-ranked, arranged in shoots an average of 2.5 cm diameter at base.

*Leaf apex.*—Narrow acute.

*Leaf aspect.*—Emerging leaves erect, then cascade.

*Leaf venation.*—Parallel, upper surface; matches leaf coloration, and lower surface; with only mid rib conspicuous; a color between 144B and 138B.

*Leaf margins.*—Entire.

*Leaf size.*—Up to 42 cm in length and 2.5 cm in width.

*Leaf surface.*—Smooth, glabrous, and dull on upper and lower surface.

*Leaf number.*—Average of 10 leaves per rosette.

*Leaf color.*—Young leaves, upper and lower surface; 144C and blending to N137B near apex and 145D at base, mature leaves upper surface; 137A and 145D near base with very base N155A and slightly suffused with N82B, mature leaves lower surface; 137A and 145D near base with very base heavily suffused with N82A with margins N92A.

*Leaf attachment.*—Sessile to base.

Flower description:

*Inflorescence type.*—Dense umbel.

*Flower fragrance.*—None.

*Flower type.*—Rotate, campanulate, base of tepals fused.

*Flower number.*—An average of 70 flowers per umbel.

*Inflorescence size.*—Average of 13 cm in height and 16 cm in diameter.

*Flower size.*—An average of 3.9 cm in depth and 3.6 cm in diameter.

*Flower type.*—Tubular-campanulate.

*Lastingness of inflorescence.*—About one month, flowers an average of 7 days.

*Flower aspect.*—Outward to drooping.

*Peduncle.*—Very strong, oval in shape, held primarily upright, up to 68 cm in length and 1.5 cm in width at proximal region and 1 cm in width at distal region, a blend of 144A and 144B in color with base 145C and slightly suffused with N92A, satiny, glabrous and slightly glaucous surface.

*Pedicels.*—Very strong, average of 4.5 cm in length and 1.5 mm in width, held erect to outward (0° to 180°), 144C in color, glabrous surface.

*Flower buds.*—Obelliptic in shape, average of 1.7 cm in length and 6 mm in width, a blend of N82A and 83A just prior to opening, enclosed by 2 to 3 deciduous spathe-like bracts that split open when flowers open; ovate to lanceolate in shape, acuminate apex, truncate base, up to 5.0 cm in length and 2.5 cm in width, color outer surface; a blend of 138A to 138C and suffused with 83C at base, color inner surface; a blend of 138B, 138C and 145C, both surfaces glabrous and dull.

*Tepals.*—Average of 6 (3 inner and 3 outer), oblanceolate in shape, rounded to acute apex of inner tepals rounded with slight notch, apex of out tepals acute, margins are entire and slightly ruffled, lower 25% fused at base, inner and outer surfaces are glabrous and satiny, moderately thick substance, average of 3.9 cm in length, 1 cm in width, inner and outer surface a blend of N88A and N88B in color with a center vein N88A and slight margins of N89A, tube portion is 1 cm in length and 7 mm in width.

Reproductive organs:

*Gynoecium.*—1 pistil, average of 1.9 cm in length, stigma is narrow clavate in shape, minute and 155A in color, style is 1.6 cm in length and 85A in color blending to 155A at base, ovary is oblong in shape, 6 mm in length, 3 mm in width and 150D in color.

*Androecium.*—6 stamens, anthers are dorsifixed, obcordate in shape, average of 1.5 mm in length, and 202A in color, filaments are 2.9 cm in length, adnate to tepal at base and 85A in color blending to 155A at base, pollen is abundant in quantity, 135B in color when mature, a metallic in appearance.

*Fruit/seed.*—Have not been observed to date.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Agapanthus* plant named 'MP003' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1





FIG. 2