



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

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- (54) **LAVANDULA PLANT NAMED ‘FW WHIMSICAL’**
- (50) Latin Name: *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata*
Varietal Denomination: **FW Whimsical**
- (71) Applicant: **PLANT GROWERS AUSTRALIA**,
Wonga Park, Victoria (AU)
- (72) Inventor: **Steven Eggleton**, Wandin North (AU)
- (73) Assignee: **Plant Growers Australia**, Wonga Park
(AU)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: **16/501,146**
- (22) Filed: **Feb. 25, 2019**
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A01H 5/02 (2018.01)
A01H 6/50 (2018.01)

- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./445**
CPC *A01H 6/502* (2018.05)
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./263.1, 445
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

PGA Plants website. <https://www.pga.com.au/Plants/Collections/Lavender-Fairy-Wings.cshtml>. 2 pages.*

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Susan McCormick Ewoldt

Assistant Examiner — Karen M Redden

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Lavandula* plant named ‘FW Whimsical’, characterized by its compact and broadly upright plant habit; freely branching growth habit, dense and bushy appearance; freely flowering habit; light red purple-colored flowers with medium to large light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts arranged on short terminal spikes; and good garden performance.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘FW WHIMSICAL’.

CROSS-REFERENCED TO CLOSELY-RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant: Steven Eggleton
Title: *Lavandula* Plant Named ‘FW Radiance’
Filed: Feb. 25, 2019
Ser. No. 16/501,145
Applicant: Steven Eggleton
Title: *Lavandula* Plant Named ‘FW Spellbound’
Filed: Feb. 25, 2019
Ser. No. 16/501,144

This application claims priority to the Australia Plant Breeder’s Rights application number 2018/038, filed Feb. 26, 2018.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct *Lavandula* plant, botanically known as *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata*, commonly referred to as Spanish Lavender and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘FW Whimsical’.

The new *Lavandula* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new compact and freely-flowering *Lavan-*

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dula plants with good garden performance and attractive plant form and flower coloration.

The new *Lavandula* plant originated from a cross-pollination in October, 2009 of *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* ‘Papillon’, not patented, as the female or seed, parent with *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* ‘Sweetberry Ruffles’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,447, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Lavandula* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia in October, 2014.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Lavandula* plant by softwood terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia since December, 2014 has shown that the unique features of this new *Lavandula* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Lavandula* have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental 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 the new *Lavandula* plant. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'FW Whimsical' as a new and distinct *Lavandula* plant:

1. Compact and broadly upright plant habit.
2. Freely branching growth habit, dense and bushy appearance.
3. Freely flowering habit.
4. Light red purple-colored flowers with medium to large light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts arranged on short terminal spikes.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* differ primarily from plants of the female parent, 'Papillon', in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lavandula* are more upright than and not as spreading as plants of 'Papillon'.
2. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have broader sterile flower bracts than plants of 'Papillon'.
3. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'Papillon' differ in sterile flower bract color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* have light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'Papillon' have mauve-colored sterile flower bracts.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* differ primarily from plants of the male parent, 'Sweetberry Ruffles', in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have shorter inflorescences than plants of 'Sweetberry Ruffles'.
2. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have narrower sterile flower bracts than plants of 'Sweetberry Ruffles'.
3. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'Sweetberry Ruffles' differ in sterile flower bract color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* have light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'Sweetberry Ruffles' have light pink-colored sterile flower bracts.
4. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have longer peduncles than plants of 'Sweetberry Ruffles'.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* can be compared to plants of *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* 'FW Radiance', disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 16/501,145. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'FW Radiance' differ primarily in flower color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* are light red purple in color with light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'FW Radiance' are light purple in color with red purple-colored sterile flower bracts.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* can be compared to plants of *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* 'FW Spellbound', disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 16/501,144. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'FW Spellbound' differ primarily in flower color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* are light red purple in color with light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'FW Spellbound' are greyed purple in color with purple violet-colored sterile flower bracts.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* can be compared to plants of the *Lavandula stoechas* 'Boysenberry Ruffles', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 18,256. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Lavandula* differ primarily from plants of 'Boysenberry Ruffles' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have longer sterile flower bracts than plants of 'Boysenberry Ruffles'.

2. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'Boysenberry Ruffles' differ in sterile flower bract color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* have light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'Boysenberry Ruffles' have pink-colored sterile flower bracts.

3. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have longer peduncles than plants of 'Boysenberry Ruffles'.

Plants of the new *Lavandula* can also be compared to plants of the *Lavandula stoechas* 'Sensation White', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new *Lavandula* differ primarily from plants of 'Sensation White' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Lavandula* have longer sterile flower bracts than plants of 'Sensation White'.
2. Sterile flower bracts of plants of the new *Lavandula* are more spreading than and not as upright as sterile flower bracts than plants of 'Sensation White'.
3. Plants of the new *Lavandula* and 'Sensation White' differ in sterile flower bract color as flowers of plants of the new *Lavandula* have light red purple-colored sterile flower bracts whereas flowers of plants of 'Sensation White' have white-colored sterile flower bracts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Lavandula* plant 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 *Lavandula* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'FW Whimsical' grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of typical inflorescences of 'FW Whimsical'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used in the aforementioned photographs and following detailed description were grown in 1.5-liter containers during the late spring in an outdoor nursery in Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Lavandula* production. Plants were pinched two times and were one year old when the photographs and description were taken. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 10° C. to 40° C. and night temperatures ranged from -1° C. to 20° C. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. Botanical classification: *Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* 'FW Whimsical'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* 'Papillon', not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—*Lavandula stoechas pedunculata* 'Sweetberry Ruffles', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 22,447.

Propagation:

Type.—Terminal softwood vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About ten days at temperatures about 24° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About twelve days at temperatures about 21° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About 24 to 28 days at temperatures ranging from 23° C. to 26° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About 35 to 40 days at temperatures ranging from 15° C. to 18° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; typically white to light brown in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

Plant and growth habit.—Herbaceous perennial; compact and broadly upright plant habit; roughly globular to broadly ovate in overall shape; moderately vigorous growth habit; moderate growth rate; flowers arranged in verticillasters on terminal spikes.

Plant height, soil level to top of foliar plane.—About 16.3 cm.

Plant height, soil level to top of floral plane.—About 22.6 cm.

Plant width.—About 21.3 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Quantity per plant: About nine primary lateral branches each with about ten secondary branches developing per plant during the flowering season. Length: About 6.5 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Internode length: About 2.9 cm. Strength: Moderately strong. Aspect: Upright to somewhat outwardly. Texture and luster: Densely tomentose; slightly glossy. Color, developing: Close to 144B to 144C; at the internodes, between 143C and 144B. Color, developed: Close to 199B and 199C.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Opposite, simple; sessile. Length: About 3.2 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Narrowly oblanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire; slightly to moderately revolute. Texture and luster, upper surface: Densely pubescent; matte. Texture and luster, lower surface: Moderately to densely pubescent; matte. Fragrance: Strongly aromatic, pungent. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Color: Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to NN137B to NN137C; venation, close to 138A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 137B; venation, close to 138B.

Flower description:

Flower type, arrangement and habit.—Small single salverform flowers arranged in verticillasters on terminal cylindrical spikes; freely flowering habit with

about 60 to 100 flowers developing in four to twelve whorls per inflorescence and about 50 inflorescences developing per plant; flowers with two-lobed upper lip and three-lobed lower lip; flowers face mostly outwardly on the spike.

Natural flowering season.—Relatively long flowering period; continuous from late winter to late spring/early summer in Australia.

Flower longevity on the plant.—Individual flowers last about one to two months on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Fragrance.—Resinous.

Flower buds.—Length: About 7.5 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Shape: Elliptic. Color: Close to 143A to 143B.

Inflorescence height.—About 2.8 cm, excluding terminal bracts.

Inflorescence diameter.—About 1.3 cm, excluding terminal bracts.

Flower diameter.—About 4.5 mm.

Flower depth (height).—About 8 mm, including tube.

Flower tube length.—About 6 mm.

Flower tube diameter.—About 1 mm.

Petals.—Quantity and arrangement: Upper lip, two-lobed and lower lip, three-lobed. Length, upper and lower lips: About 2.9 mm. Width, upper and lower lips: About 1.8 mm. Shape, upper lip: Obovate. Shape, lower lip: Ovate. Apex, upper and lower lips: Obtuse, rounded. Margin, upper and lower lips: Entire; slightly undulate. Texture and luster, upper (inner) surface, upper and lower lips: Smooth, glabrous; slightly velvety; matte. Texture and luster, lower (outer) surface, upper and lower lips: Smooth, glabrous; slightly velvety; slightly glossy. Color, upper and lower lips: When opening, upper (inner) and lower (outer) surfaces: Close to 69C to 69D. Fully opened, upper (inner) and lower (outer) surfaces: Close to 69B to 69C; color becoming closer to 69A with development.

Basal flower bracts.—Quantity and arrangement: Each group of flowers is subtended by a single basal flower bract. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 8 mm. Shape: Cordate. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Lavandula* plant named 'FW Whimsical' as illustrated and described.

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