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

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

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

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Monarda* plant named ‘Balbeemin’, characterized by its medium reddish-purple colored inflorescences, dark green-colored foliage, good powdery mildew resistance, and moderately vigorous, upright growth habit, is disclosed.

1 Drawing Sheet

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

Variety denomination: ‘Balbeemin’.

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 ‘Balbeemin’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding program in Guadalupe, Calif. during the summer 2011. The objective of the breeding program was the development of *Monarda* cultivars that are medium height, early flowering, and have good powdery mildew resistance.

The new *Monarda* cultivar is the result of open-pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary *Monarda didyma* breeding selection coded MNR-160, not patented, characterized by its dark purple-colored inflorescences, medium green-colored foliage, and moderately vigorous, compact-upright growth habit. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar is unknown. The new cultivar was selected as a single flowering plant within the progeny of the above stated open-pollination during August 2012 in a controlled environment in Guadalupe, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem cuttings since August 2012 in Guadalupe, Calif. and West Chicago, 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 ‘Balbeemin’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Monarda* plant:

1. Medium reddish-purple colored inflorescences;
2. Dark green-colored foliage;

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3. Good powdery mildew resistance; and
4. Moderately vigorous, upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female parent primarily in having medium reddish-purple colored inflorescences and a taller, upright growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Monarda* cultivars, the most similar in comparison to the new cultivar is Balmy Pink ‘Balbalmink’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 26,566. However, in side-by-side comparisons, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of ‘Balbalmink’ in at least the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have inflorescences that are a darker reddish-purple color than plants of ‘Balbalmink’;
2. Plants of the new cultivar have fewer flowers per inflorescences than plants of ‘Balbalmink’; and
3. Plants of the new cultivar are taller than plants of ‘Balbalmink’.

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 ‘Balbeemin’. The plants were approximately 5.5 months old. The plants were grown three plants per pot in 1.7 gallon containers for approximately 3 months in an outdoor nursery in West Chicago, Ill. Plants were given two pinches prior to transplant and one pinch one week after transplant.

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

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

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, 2015 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined in August 2021 under natural light conditions in Naperville, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe approximately 5.5-month-old plants produced from cuttings from stock plants and grown under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown three plants per pot in 1.7 gallon containers for approximately 3 months in an outdoor nursery in West Chicago, Ill. Plants were given two pinches prior to transplant and one pinch one week after transplant. Prior to transplant plants were grown in liners in a poly-covered greenhouse in West Chicago, Ill. Greenhouse temperatures ranged from an average high of 79.5° F. (26.4° C.) to an average low of 68.5° F. (20.3° C.), and supplemental lighting was provided daily for five hours during short days. Measurements and numerical values represent averages of typical plant.

Botanical classification: *Monarda didyma* 'Balbeemin'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Monarda didyma* breeding selection coded MNR-160, not patented.

Male parent.—Unknown

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

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

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 35 to 42 days.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 9 to 11 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in a 15 cm pot.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Herbaceous perennial, moderately vigorous, upright growth habit.

Hardiness.—USDA Zone 4 (−30° F. to −20° F./−34.4° C. to −28.9° C.).

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 36.0 cm. Width: Approximately 34.0 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Pinching enhances lateral branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 4.

Branch.—Shape: Square in cross section. Strength: Strong. Length to base of inflorescence: Approximately 32.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm to 5.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 2.0 cm. Texture: Densely pubescent on edges. Color of young stems: 146C. Color of mature stems: 146B tinted with 187A, becoming woody 200B with age.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per branch: Approximately 8. Fragrance: Strong, sage-like. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite, decussate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Primarily perpendicular to stem. Shape: Ovate to lanceolate. Margin: Serrate. Apex: Acute. Base: Shallowly cordate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 6.2 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 3.2 cm.

Texture of upper surface: Slightly rugose, moderately pubescent. Texture of lower surface: Densely pubescent. Color of upper surface of young foliage: Closest to 137A with venation of 146B tinted with 187D at base of midvein. Color of lower surface of young and mature foliage: Closest to 137B with venation of 146D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: Closest to NN137A with venation of 146B and midvein tinted with 187D.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 9.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: 146D tinted with 187D.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Balbeemin' is a long-day obligate, vernalization is not required for flowering, freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions blooming late spring through 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 7. Fragrance: Strong, sage-like. Depth or height of inflorescence: Approximately 4.0 cm. Width of inflorescence: Approximately 5.5 cm, expands to approximately 7.0 cm as innermost flowers senesce. Quantity of fully-open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 25.

Peduncle.—Shape: Square in cross section. Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 2.0 cm to 3.0 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture: Densely 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 1.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.5 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color: NN78C.

Corolla.—Shape: Two lips, upper lip hooded; lower lip, a single lobe; lips fused. Depth (height): Approximately 3.8 cm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Length: Approximately 1.4 cm.

Upper lip.—Shape: Linear, hooded. Aspect: Erect. Margin: Entire. Apex: Two acute tips. Length: Approximately 1.1 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: NN74D. Color of outer surface when first and fully open: N74B.

Lower lip.—Shape: Oblanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Curled lobe at apex about 4.0 mm in length and 1.0 mm in width. Length: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width: Approximately 4.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Densely pubescent. Color of upper surface when first and fully open: NN74D. Color of lower surface when first and fully open: N74D.

Corolla tube.—Length: Approximately 2.1 cm. Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture of inner surface: Glabrous. Texture of outer surface: Densely pubescent. Color: NN74B to NN74C.

Calyx.—Shape: Tubular. Length: Approximately 7.0 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: 145C with tips of 187A, 155C at base. Color of outer surface: 145B with tips and an overlay near apex of 187A, 155C at base. 10

Bracts.—Quantity: Approximately 27 per inflorescence in multiple whorls. Shape: Ovate to lanceolate. Length of larger: Approximately 5.0 cm. Width of larger: Approximately 3.0 cm. Length of smaller: Approximately 9.0 mm. 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 137A with an overlay of 187D on midvein. Color of lower surface of larger bracts: 137C. Color of upper and lower surfaces of smaller bracts: 145D with a heavy overlay of 187A. 20

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity: 2 per flower, dorsifixed. Filament length: Approximately 3.1 cm. Filament length of fixed portion:

Approximately 2.1 cm. Filament color: NN155D, opaque. Anther shape: Narrowly elliptic to oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 158D with N78A, quickly turning N199B. Pollen amount: Sparse. Pollen color: NN155D. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 3.8 cm. Stigma shape: Cleft, two-parted. Stigma length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Stigma color: 90C. Style length: Approximately 3.5 cm. Style color: NN155D, opaque with a faint overlay of 90C near stigma. Ovary length: Approximately 1.0 mm. Ovary color: 158D.

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

Disease and pest resistance: Good resistance to powdery mildew has been observed.

What is claimed is:

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

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FIG. 1

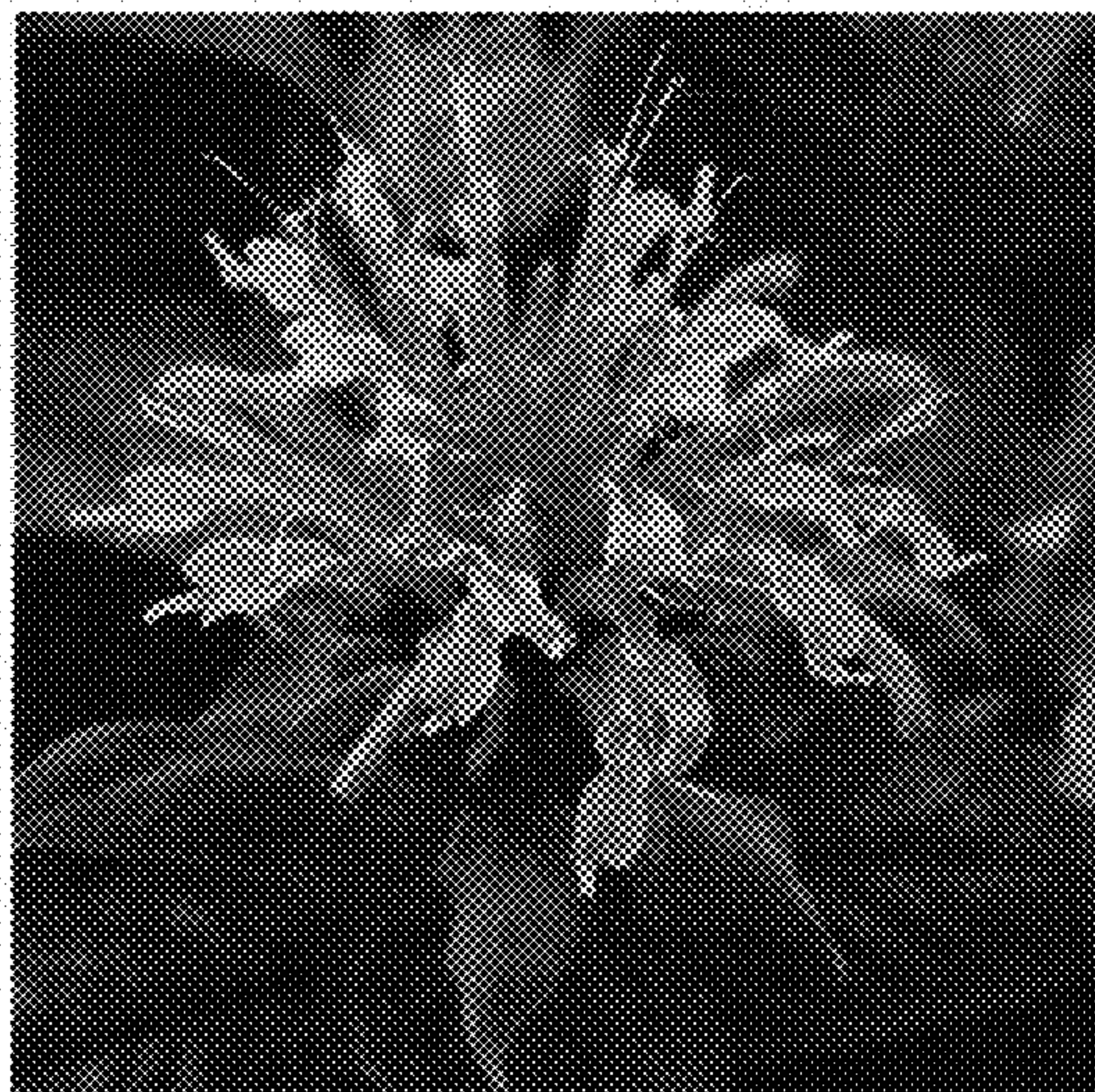


FIG. 2