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GERANIUM PLANT

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3,174

GERANIUM PLANT

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1 Claim

The present invention comprises a new and distinct  
variety of geranium plant which has resulted from  
crossing certain geranium selections in a program of  
hybridization. The seed parent is identified for breeding  
purposes as #6140-2, and the pollen parent is identified  
for breeding purposes as #61122-1, with these numbers  
distinguishing the parents from others in the same  
program.

The new variety is similar in many respects to the un-  
patented but commercial variety Genie Irene, both of  
which have the same characteristics of:

- (1) Compact growth habit.
- (2) Semi-double flower form.

The new variety is distinguished from Genie Irene by  
the following:

- (1) The foliage and flowers are more durable to out-  
door conditions.
- (2) Less susceptible than Genie Irene to botrytis.
- (3) Greater flower production and earlier response in  
a spring pot program.
- (4) Shatters much less than Genie Irene.
- (5) A lighter, Cherry Blossom-pink color than Genie  
Irene.

The new variety was selected from a progeny of  
seedlings from the above-mentioned parents. Varietal  
worth was determined by flowering cuttings taken from  
the initial selection in both a spring 4" pot flowering pro-  
gram and in outdoor flowering during the summer months.

The new variety has been asexually reproduced by cut-  
tings at Barberton, Ohio, and has been found to retain  
its distinctive characteristics through successive propaga-  
tions.

The new variety when grown in a greenhouse in the  
vicinity of Barberton, Ohio, in a 4" pot program has a re-  
sponse of 40 days. Geranium response is defined by  
Yoder Brothers, Inc., Barberton, Ohio, the assignee of the  
present invention, as the number of days from plant date  
of a 2" potted plant in a 4" pot to the date 80% of the  
pots are saleable, grown at 65° night temperature in  
northern Ohio. A saleable pot is 4" pot which has a mini-  
mum of one flower head showing good color. It will be  
understood that the response time and blooming period  
may vary significantly with varying environmental condi-  
tions such as temperature, light intensity, and daylight.

The accompanying drawing illustrates the new variety,  
the colors being as nearly true as possible with color il-  
lustrations of this type.

The following detailed description is based on observa-  
tions made both in the greenhouse and in outdoor plant-  
ings in the vicinity of Barberton, Ohio. Color references  
are to the Munsell Color Book, 1963 edition, and to Ridg-  
way Color Standards and Nomenclature, where meaning-  
ful comparisons have been made with the variety Genie  
Irene.

Botanical classification: Pelargonium×hortorum (Bai-  
ley)  
Flower:

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*Color*.—Spring color—deep rose-pink, Ridgway 71d;  
upper 2 petals are variegated nearly white, Mun-  
sell 10RP9/2 with deep rose-pink veins—summer  
color—deep rose-pink, Ridgway 71d, nearest to  
Munsell 3.75RP6/12 rose-pink; upper variegated  
nearly white, Munsell 10RP9/1 with rose veins.

*Bud*.—Sheath—medium size, dissected, pubescent  
outside, smooth inside, persistent, tends to dry up  
as flower head matures; color, light green, Mun-  
sell 5GY5/8—calyx—five long, pointed; green,  
Munsell 5GY5/6, persistent—form—conoidal.

*Inflorescence*: florets per flower head

	Spring 4" pots	Outdoors
Cherry Blossom.....	80-90	80-90
Genie Irene.....	30-40	30-40

peduncle—strength; strong, will hold weight of  
flower under rough handling; rather thin; some-  
what hairy; length, 4" to 8"; color, green,  
5GY6/8—pedicel—rather long, 1" to 1½", some-  
what hairy; color, red-green, Munsell 5R3/8, shad-  
ing to green base, Munsell 5GY5/6.

*Florets*.—Petalage—semi-double, 6-10 petals, some  
petaloid anthers, no petaloid calyx—opening—  
opens well, with florets being flat when fully open;  
buds open in 2 days from tight bud.

*Lasting quality*.—Essentially non-shatter; only old  
flowers shatter. Comeback following rain outdoors:  
excellent. Durability to outdoor conditions: excel-  
lent, better resistance to rain and sun than Genie  
Irene.

*Reproductive organs*.—Stamen, anthers—5 to 10,  
may be petaloid—color—deep rose, Munsell  
10RP6/12—filaments—short, rather thick, nearly  
white—pollen—orange, near Munsell 10R4/10—  
pistil style—rather long, deep rose, Munsell  
10RP6/12—stigma—5 lobes normal, deep rose,  
Munsell 10RP6/12—ovary—hypogynous, conoi-  
dal, hairy, light green, near Munsell 7.5GY6/8.

*Bloom habit*.—Response in spring 4" pots to 80%  
saleability—Cherry Blossom—40 days—Genie  
Irene—45 days—flower production: (flowers and  
buds per plant)

	Spring pot	Outdoors
Cherry Blossom.....	2.8	10
Genie Irene.....	2.4	10

Spring production is defined by Yoder Bros., Inc., as  
the average number of flowers and buds per 4" pot visible  
above the foliage when 80% of the pots grown at 65°  
night temperature are saleable. Production outdoors is  
defined by Yoder Bros., Inc., as the average number of  
flowers and buds per plant visible above the foliage in  
early August from a June 1 planting of a 2" potted plant.

*Continuity*.—Continuous.

Plant:

*Growth habit*.—4" spring pots, compact, more  
spreading than upright. Outdoors, compact, re-  
mains mound-like throughout summer.

*Breaking action*.—Pinch not needed to develop well-  
branched plant.

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*Stem.*—Stiff, medium size, somewhat hairy, color light green, Munsell 5GY6/6.

*Stipule.*—Medium size, nearly as wide as long, toothed, hairy, green, Munsell 5GY5/6.

*Foliage.*—Form—reniform—size—2" to 4", rather large—margin—incised—texture—leathery top, soft reverse—color—base color, green, Munsell 7.5GY4/4—zonal marking—dark green, Munsell 7.5GY3/4—reverse side—green, Munsell 7.5GY5/6—durability—foliage resistant to botrytis. 10

*Rooting and stock production.*—Roots well in conventional geranium rooting period.

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*Disease resistance.*—Foliage highly resistant to botrytis; flowers moderately resistant.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of geranium characterized particularly by an early response and superior flower production in 4" spring pot program, resistance to shatter, durable foliage and flowers to outdoor conditions, resistance to botrytis, and a Cherry Blossom-pink color with attractive white eye.

No references cited.

ROBERT E. BAGWILL, Primary Examiner