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GERANIUM PLANT

Plant Pat. 3,875

Sheet 1 of 2

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3,875

GERANIUM PLANT

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U.S. Cl. Plt.—68 **1 Claim**

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Pelargonium peltatum,* Ait., hereinafter referred to by the varietal name Harvard (#72105013).

Harvard was originated from a cross made under the supervision of William E. Duffett and Walter W. Knicely in a controlled breeding program in Barberton, Ohio in the year 1971.

The male, or pollen parent, was Cayucas (unpatented; commercially available), an ivy geranium of fuchsia pink color of unknown parentage.

The female, or seed parent, was Mexican Beauty (unpatented; commercially available), an ivy geranium of crimson red color of unknown parentage.

Harvard was discovered and selected as a flowering seedling within the progeny of the stated cross by William E. Duffett and Walter W. Knicely on Aug. 28, 1972 in a controlled environment in Barberton, Ohio.

Harvard is a product of a planned breeding program which had the objective of creating an ivy geranium that would fulfill in part or in whole the need for intensified dark red flower color, increased color retention and increased tolerance for Ohio light and temperature of continuous outdoor summer flowering.

The first act of asexual reproduction of Harvard was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial seedling in September 1972 in a controlled environment in Barberton, Ohio by a technician according to formulation established and supervised by William E. Duffett and Walter W. Knicely.

Continued asexual reproduction by vegetative cuttings for evaluative tests in flowering and stock programs in conjunction with horticultural certification initiated June 18, 1973 in Barberton, Ohio have demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for Harvard are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

The following descriptive observations, measurements, and comparisons were derived from plants grown both in a greenhouse and under outdoor conditions. The greenhouse-grown, spring-flowered containerized plants were moved to an outdoor lath area in late May, early June and observed during the summer and fall months. The environmental conditions under which the observed plants were grown closely approximate those generally used in commercial practice and are described in Chart A. A

light intensity chart of general use is shown in FIG. 14.14 in ASHAE Trans., Vol. 64, page 64, and reference is made thereto.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be basic characteristics of Harvard which in combination distinguish this ivy geranium as a new and distinct cultivar:

(1) Maroon red flower color with minimal color oxidation.

(2) Prolific flowering traits under outdoor summer conditions in Ohio.

(3) Medium green glossy foliage.

(4) Vigorous trailing growing with long internode length.

(5) Fair foliage durability with slight breakdown under outdoor summer conditions in Ohio.

The accompanying color photographic drawings show typical flower and foliage characteristics of Harvard. Sheet 1 illustrates Harvard in bloom, and sheet 2 comprises a photograph showing the development of the inflorescence and the foliage of Harvard. It is noted that difficulty was encountered in obtaining photographs accurately representing the true colors of Harvard. The actual flower color of Harvard is closely approximated in sheet 1, and the foliage color of Harvard in closely approximated in sheet 2. The color readings are, however, correct.

The phenotype of Harvard may vary significantly with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, and daylength outside the ranges described in Chart A and Chart B. The genotype of Harvard was not observed under all possible environments.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present inventors, the most similar existing cultivars in comparison to Harvard are the parental cultivars Mexican Beauty and Cayucas. Reference is made to attached Chart B which compares certain characteristics of the above mentioned cultivars with the same characteristics of Harvard. General comparisons are as follows:

(1) In comparison to Mexican Beauty, Harvard has more intense maroon red flower color with less blue tones and less color oxidation, more prolific outdoor summer flowering traits, and less durable prolific outdoor foliage traits. The growth habit, internode length, and the flower form of Harvard are similar to same as those of Mexican Beauty.

(2) In comparison to Cayucas, Harvard has maroon red flower color, more vigirous (more trailing) growth habit, longer internode length, and more prolific outdoor summer flowering traits. The flower form of Harvard is similar to that of Cayucas.

In the following description, all color references are to the Munsell Limit Color Cascade, 1972 edition. The notation (a) indicates that the color values were determined between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., on June 7,

1974 under 150 foot candle light intensity at Barberton, Ohio. The notation (b) indicates that the color values were determined between 2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on July 22, 1974, under 150 foot candle light intensity at Barberton, Ohio, and the notation (c) indicates that color values were determined between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, 1974 under 25 foot candle legiht intensity at Barberton, Ohio.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium peltatum,* Ait., cv Harvard.

I. INFLORESCENCE

A. *Umbel:*
Average diameter: 3.5 inches.
Peduncle: Ranges from 2 inches to 3 inches in length, averaging 2.4 inches.
Pedicel: 0.75 inch.

B. *Corolla:*
Average diameter: 1.5 inches.
Type: Semi-double; rotate.

Color:	Spring (a)	Summer (b)
Abaxial	41–14	42–14
Adaxial	41–10	42–11
Blotch	41–16	42–16

C. *Bud:*
Shape: Conodial.

Color:	Spring (a)	Summer (b)
Abaxial	41–14	41–14
Adaxial	41–11	41–11
Blotch	41–16	41–16

D. *Reproductive Organs:*
Androecium: Stamen: monodelphous; dorsifixed. *Pollen:* present.
Gynoecium: Stigma: 5-lobed; linear. *Carpel:* 5 locules; pubescent.
E. *Response Period:* Early.
F. *Production:* Good.

Date:	Average number of flowers
July 15, 1974	17
Aug. 1, 1974	16
Aug. 15, 1974	19
Sept. 1, 1974	16

G. *Durability:*
Shatter resistance: Poor.
Tolerance of boytrytis: Good.

II. PLANT

A. *Foliage:*
Form: Reni-form.
Margin: Undulate.
Color (c): Abaxial: Approximately 21–14. *Adaxial:* 12–12 overlaid with white.
Durability (outdoor): Good.

B. *Growth Habit:*
Form: Trailing.
Height: Vigorous.
Internode length: Long.

C. *Durability:*
Tolerance of botrytis: Good.

CHART A—ENVIRONMENT FOR IVY GERANIUM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION COMMONLY USED IN BARBERTON, OHIO

	Environment	
	I. Greenhouse	II. Outdoor lath (30% light reduction)
Period of year	February through May	June through September
Temperature (° F.)	Night—62–65; Bright day—72–75; Cloudy day—68–70	Uncontrolled dependent on prevailing weather conditions.
Light	Uncontrolled dependent upon natural daylength and light intensity. Light shade compound on greenhouse glass.	Uncontrolled dependent upon natural daylength and light intensity. 30% intensity reduction from lath.
Schedule and specifications.	Take vegetative cutting—February 19. Cutting specification—2–2.75 inches in length. Direct stick—February 20; 5 cuttings per 10 inch basket. Media—1 part soil, 1 part peat, 1 part perlite. Pinch—every 4 nodes to finish April 10. Flower—May 28.	Move to outdoor lath location—early June (product produced in I).

CHART B—COMPARISON OF HARVARD WITH MEXICAN BEAUTY AND CAYUCAS

Cultivar	Flower color	Growth habit	Internode length	Outdoor flowering traits	Flower form	Outdoor Foliage durability
Harvard	Maroon red	Vigorous and trailing	Long	Excellent	Semidouble	Fair.
Mexican Beauty	Crimson red	do	do	Fair	do	Good.
Cayucas	Fuchsia pink	Compact and spreading	Medium	do	do	Do.

NOTE.—Comparisons made of plants grown in a greenhouse and under outdoor lath in Barberton, Ohio under conditions described in Chart A and Chart B.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium characterized particularly by its maroon red flower color with minimal color oxidation, prolific flowering traits under outdoor summer conditions in Ohio, medium green glossy foliage, vigorous trailing growth with long internode length, and by its fair foliage durability with slight breakdown under outdoor summer conditions in Ohio.

No references cited.

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