

[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED BLUES  
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[21] Appl. No.: 548,221  
[22] Filed: Nov. 2, 1983  
[51] Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup> ..... A01H 5/00  
[52] U.S. Cl. .... Plt./68  
[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./68

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[57] ABSTRACT  
A new and distinct cultivar of geranium plant named  
Blues characterized by the combined features of fuchsia  
pink flower color, semi-double to single flower form,  
cultivation below 12° C., short peduncles, large flower-  
head, compact habit, and excellent branching.

3 Drawing Figures

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct  
cultivar of geranium, botanically known as *Pelargonium*  
*zonale*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name  
Blues.  
Blues is a product of planned breeding program  
which had the objective of creating new geranium culti-  
vars with pink flower color, semi-double flower form,  
compact habit, fast rooting, good tolerance to botrytis,  
and superior weather resistance.  
Blues was originated from a hybridization made in a  
controlled breeding program in Hilscheid, Federal  
Republic of Germany in 1979. The female parent was  
the unpatented cultivar Highfields Festival, a cultivar  
having pink semi-double flowers, inferior branching,  
and slow rooting. The male parent of Blues was a pa-  
tented cultivar created by self-breeding of an unnamed  
cultivar designated by number 94, with the male parent  
having pink flower color with a white eye, single flower  
form, and compact habit.  
Blues was discovered and selected as one flowering  
plant within the progeny of the stated cross by Ingeborg  
Schumann on June 27, 1980 in a controlled environment  
in Hilscheid, Federal Republic of Germany.  
The first act of asexual reproduction of Blues was  
accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken  
from the initial selection in January, 1981 in a controlled  
environment in Hilscheid, Federal Republic of Ger-  
many by a technician working under formulations es-  
tablished and supervised by Ingeborg Schumann. Horti-  
cultural examination of selected units initiated in the  
Spring of 1981 and continued in 1982 has demonstrated  
that the combination of characteristics as herein dis-  
closed for Blues are firmly fixed and are retained  
through successive generations of asexual reproduction.  
Blues has not been observed under all possible envi-  
ronmental conditions. The phenotype may vary signifi-  
cantly with variations in environment such as tempera-  
ture, light intensity, and day length. The following  
observations, measurements, and comparisons describe  
plants grown in Hilscheid, Federal Republic of Ger-  
many under greenhouse conditions which approximate  
those generally used in commercial practice.  
The following traits have been repeatedly observed  
and are determined to be basic characteristics of Blues  
which in combination distinguish this geranium as a  
new and distinct cultivar:

- 1. Fuchsia pink flower color.
- 2. Semi-double to single flower form.

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3. Blues can be cultivated at temperatures below 12°  
C.  
4. No growth treatment necessary for quality.  
5. Short peduncles.  
6. Large flowerhead (umbel).  
7. Compact habit.  
8. Excellent branching, producing an average of 4.3  
branches per plant.  
9. Dark green foliage.  
Of the many commercial cultivars known to the pres-  
ent inventor, the most similar in comparison to Blues is  
Pelfi® Flirt and Pelfi® Rosenquarz. Reference is  
made to attached Chart A which compares certain  
characteristics of Blues to those same characteristics of  
Pelfi® Flirt and Pelfi® Rosenquarz. In general com-  
parison to Pelfi® Flirt, Blues has a shorter internode  
length and shorter plant height, smaller leaves, better  
branching, and faster rooting. In comparison to Pelfi®  
Rosenquarz, Blues has better foliage durability under  
outdoor and indoor conditions, faster rooting, and good  
tolerance to botrytis. In addition, the color of Blues is  
distinctive relative to the color of both of the compari-  
son cultivars.  
The accompanying photographic drawings show  
typical flower and foliage characteristics of Blues, with  
colors being as true as possible with illustrations of this  
type. Sheet 1 is a perspective view of a potted plant of  
Blues. Sheet 2 is a relatively enlarged view of the flow-  
ers, buds and foliage, and Sheet 3 is a black and white  
print of the underside of the leaves of Blues.  
In the following description color references are  
made to The Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart,  
except where additional color values are given from the  
Horticultural Color Chart (H.C.C.). The color values  
were determined between 4:05 and 4:20 P.M. on Aug.  
12, 1983 under 20,000 Klux at Hilscheid, Federal Re-  
public of Germany.

CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: A hybrid of the genus *Pelargonium* l'hert.  
Commercial: Blues.

INFLORESCENCE

Umbel:  
Average diameter.—110 mm.  
Average depth.—88 mm.  
Peduncle length.—220 mm.

*Pedice l length.*—32 mm.  
Corolla:  
*Average diameter.*—51 mm.  
*Form.*—Nearly single, weak semi-double, round.  
*Color (general tonality from a distance of three me- 5 ters).*—R.H.S. 58C, H.C.C. 625.  
*Color (abaxial).*—R.H.S. 55A, H.C.C. 625/1, with white eye at center.  
Bud:  
*Shape.*—Narrow elliptic.  
*Color (abaxial).*—Slightly lighter than corolla.  
Reproductive organs:  
*Androecium.*—Monodelphous; 7–9 stamens; plenti- ful pollen.  
*Gynoecium.*—4–5 Lobed stigma, deformed.  
Spring flowering response period: In Hillscheid, Fed- eral Republic of Germany in 1982, 60% of plants with at least 1 flower opened 13 weeks after planting of unrooted cuttings.  
Outdoor flower production: The flower count in 1982 20 in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany was between 41 and 46 flowers per plant for June through October observation period.  
Durability: 100% shatter resistance.

PLANT

Foliage:  
*Form.*—Generally kidney shaped.  
*Margin.*—Bicrenate.  
*Color (abaxial).*—Dark green.  
*Tolerance to botrytis.*—Good.

General appearance and form:  
*Internode length.*—30 mm.  
*Branching pattern.*—An average of 4.3 branches per plant.  
*Height.*—235 mm.

CHART A

	Corolla Color	Branching Habit (number of branches)	Chlorophyll Quality for Transportation	Rooting Time
10	Pelfi ® RHS 67C	3.2	good	slow
	Flirt			
	Pelfi ® RHS 61D	4.2	bad	medium
	Rosenquarz			
15	Blues RHS 58C	4.3	very good	very fast
	Plant Height	Spring Flowering Response	Outdoor Flower Production	Tolerance of Botrytis
	Pelfi ® tall	55%	40–44	medium
	Flirt			
20	Pelfi ® small	70%	52–54	bad
	Rosenquarz			
	Blues medium	60%	41–46	good

I claim:

25 1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium plant named Blues, as described and illustrated, and particu- larly characterized by the combined features of fuchsia pink flower color, semi-double to single flower form, cultivation below 12° C., short peduncles, large flower- 30 head, compact habit, and excellent branching.

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