

[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED OLYMP  
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[57] ABSTRACT  
A new and distinct cultivar of geranium plant named  
Olymp, and particularly characterized by its semi-dou-  
ble flower form and vermilion red flower color, fast  
rooting, zoned leaves, large flowerhead, cultivation  
below 12° C., and by its excellent branching.

3 Drawing Figures

1  
The present invention comprises a new and distinct  
cultivar of geranium, botanically known as *Pelargonium*  
*zonale*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name  
Olymp.  
Olymp is a product of planning breeding program  
which had the objective of creating new geranium culti-  
vars having orange-red flower color, leave zonation,  
short plant height, fast rooting, good branching, durable  
flowers, and stable peduncles.  
Olymp was originated from a hybridization made in a  
controlled breeding program in Hillscheid, Federal  
Republic of Germany in 1979. The female parent was  
the unpatented cultivar Dondo Royal, having red semi-  
double flowers, a large flowerhead, but inferior branch-  
ing. The male parent of Olymp was a cultivar derived  
from the self-breeding of the unpatented cultivar  
PAC® Alex, a cultivar having good branching and red  
semi-double flowers carried on long peduncles.  
Olymp 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 Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany.  
The first act of asexual reproduction of Olymp was  
accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken  
from the initial selection in January, 1981 in a controlled  
environment in Hillscheid, 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 continuing in 1982 has demon-  
strated that the combination of characteristics as herein  
disclosed for Olymp are firmly fixed and are retained  
through successive generations of a sexual reproduc-  
tion.  
Olymp 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 Hillscheid, 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 Olymp,  
which in combination distinguish this geranium as a  
new and distinct cultivar:

1. Dutch vermilion red flower color.
2. Zoned leaves.

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3. Fast rooting.  
4. Semi-double flower form.  
5. Olymp can be cultivated below 12° C.  
6. No growth treatment is necessary for quality plant  
production.  
7. Relatively long peduncle with anthocyan.  
8. Large flowerhead (umbel).  
9. Excellent branching, producing an average of 6.3  
branches per plant.  
Of the many commercial cultivars known to the pres-  
ent inventor, the most similar in comparison to Olymp  
are the unpatented cultivars PAC® Alex and Empress.  
Reference is made to attached Chart A which compares  
certain characteristics of Olymp to those same charac-  
teristics of PAC® Alex, with Chart A additionally  
including comparisons with the unpatented cultivars  
Vesuv and Rubin. In general comparison to PAC®  
Alex, Olymp has a shorter, more stable peduncle, fo-  
liage zonation, different flower color, earlier response, a  
larger flowerhead, and better branching. In comparison  
to Empress, Olymp has smaller leaves, better branch-  
ing, shorter internode length, and shorter plant height.  
The accompanying photographic drawings show  
typical flower and foliage characteristics of Olymp,  
with colors being as true as possible with illustrations of  
this type. Sheet 1 is a color photograph of a potted plant  
of Olymp. Sheet 2 is a relatively enlarged color photo-  
graph of the flowers, buds, and foliage, and Sheet 3 is a  
black and white print of the underside of typical leaves  
of Olymp.  
In the following description color references are  
made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart,  
with parallel or alternative values from Horticultural  
Color Chart (H.C.C.) being shown in certain instances.  
The color values were determined between 2:30 and  
2:50 P.M. on Aug. 12, 1983 under 20,000 Klux at Hill-  
scheid, Federal Republic of Germany.

CLASSIFICATION

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

INFLORESCENCE

Umbel:  
Average diameter.—114 mm.  
Average depth.—88 mm.  
Peduncle length.—231 mm.



Plant 5,375

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Pedicel length.—23 mm.

Corolla:

Average diameter.—52 mm.

Form.—Semi-double, nearly round.

Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters).—R.H.S. 33A, H.C.C. 717/1, with small blue-red eye.

Color (abaxial).—R.H.S. 40A, H.C.C. 717.

Color (adaxial).—H.C.C. 717/2.

Bud:

Shape.—Elliptic.

Color (abaxial).—Melange red.

Reproductive organs:

Androecium.—Monodelphous, 8–9 stamens.

Gynoecium.—5–6 lobed stigma, color red; style, red in color.

Spring flowering response period: In Hilscheid, Federal Republic of Germany in 1982, 80% of plants with at least 1 flower opened 13 weeks after planting of unrooted cuttings.

Outdoor flower production: The flower count in Hilscheid, Federal Republic of Germany in 1982 was between 63 and 66 flowers per plant for June through October observation period.

Durability: Shatter resistance good.

PLANT

Foliage:

Form.—Kidney shaped.

Margin.—Bicrenate.

Color(abaxial).—Medium green.

Color (zonation).—Brown, weak to medium zonation.

Tolerance to botrytis.—Good.

General appearance and form:

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Internode length.—40 mm.

Branching pattern.—Good; 16.3 branches per plant.

Height.—280 mm., Medium.

Chart A

5		Corolla Color	Hillscheid Spring Flowering Response	Branching (number of branches)	
	PAC ® Alex	RHS 44 B	55%	5.6	
	Vesuv	RHS 43 B	50%	3.0	
10	Rubin	small pink eye RHS 33 A	75%	2.8	
	Olymp	inside white RHS 33 A small blue-red eye	80%	6.3	
15		Internode Length	Plant Height	Umbel Average Diameter	
	PAC ® Alex	40 mm	270 mm	no	106 mm
	Vesuv	23 mm	220 mm	no	109 mm
	Rubin	31 mm	250 mm	weak	108 mm
20	Olymp	40 mm	280 mm	weak to medium	114 mm
		Average Depth	Peduncle Length	Pedicel Length	Corolla Average Diameter
	PAC ® Alex	74 mm	250 mm	24 mm	49 mm
	Vesuv	73 mm	200 mm	30 mm	51 mm
25	Rubin	73 mm	213 mm	39 mm	54 mm
	Olymp	88 mm	231 mm	23 mm	52 mm

I claim:

30 1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium plant named Olymp, as described and illustrated, and particularly characterized by its semi-double flower form and vermilion red flower color, fast rooting, zoned leaves, large flowerhead, cultivation below 12° C., and by its excellent branching.

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