

[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED PRAELUDIUM  
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4, Dammweg 18-20, Fed. Rep. of  
Germany  
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[57] ABSTRACT  
A new and distinct geranium plant known by the culti-  
var name Praeludium is characterized by an intensive-  
red colored flower, a semi-double flower form, a dark  
green foliage with a slight zonation, a robust foliage, a  
large umbel, and a good rooting pattern.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct  
cultivar of geranium, botanically known as *Pelargonium*  
*zonale*, hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 5  
Praeludium.  
Praeludium is a product of a planned breeding pro-  
gram which had the objective of creating new geranium  
cultivars with an intensive-red colored flower, large  
umbel, and robust and dark green foliage with a slight 10  
zonation.  
Praeludium was originated from a hybridization  
made in a controlled breeding program in Rheinberg,  
FRG, in 1982-83. The female parent was an unnamed  
seedling. The male parent of Praeludium was also an 15  
unnamed seedling.  
Praeludium was discovered and selected as one flow-  
ering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by  
Guenter Duemmen in 1984 in a controlled environment  
in Rheinberg. 20  
The first act of asexual reproduction of Praeludium  
was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken  
from the initial selection in July 1984 in a controlled  
environment in Rheinberg by a technician working  
under formulations established and supervised by 25  
Guenter Duemmen. Horticultural examination of se-  
lected units initiated in July 1984 has demonstrated that  
the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed  
for Praeludium are firmly fixed and are retained  
through successive generations of asexual reproduction. 30  
Praeludium has not been observed under all possible  
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
significantly with variations in environment such as  
temperature, light intensity, and day length. The fol-  
lowing observations, measurements, and comparisons 35  
describe plants grown in Rheinberg 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 Pra- 40  
eludium which in combination distinguish this geranium  
as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Intensive-red colored flower;
2. Semi-double flower form;
3. Dark green foliage with a slight zonation;
4. Robust foliage;
5. Large umbel;

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6. Good rooting pattern.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the pres-  
ent inventors, the most similar in comparison to Pra-  
eludium is Alex. In comparison to Alex, Praeludium has  
a larger umbel, a higher peduncle, slight zonation of the  
foliage.  
The accompanying photographic drawing shows  
typical flower and foliage characteristics of Pra-  
eludium, with colors being as true as possible with illus-  
trations of this type.  
In the following description color references are  
made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.  
The color values were determined between 10:00-11:30  
a.m. on Sept. 3, 1986 under natural light at Rheinberg in  
a room with orientation to the north.

Classification:  
Botanical.—*Pelargonium zonale* cv Praeludium.  
Commercial.—Geranium. 20

Inflorescence

- A. Umbel:  
Average diameter.—10 to 12 cm.  
Average depth.—6 to 7 cm.  
Peduncle length.—8 to 10 cm.  
Pedicel length.—2.5 to 3 cm.  
B. Corolla:  
Average diameter.—5 to 6 cm.  
Form.—Semi-double.  
Color (general tonality from a distance of three me-  
ters).—ca. RHS 40 A to 44 B.  
Color (abaxial).—ca. RHS 40 A to 44 B.  
Color (adaxial).—ca. RHS 41 A to 43 B.  
C. Bud:  
Shape.—Elliptic.  
Color (abaxial).—ca. RHS 40 A.  
Color (adaxial).—ca. RHS 40 A.  
D. Reproductive organs:  
Androecium.—Obdiplostemon, centrifugal dedou-  
plement, fertil.  
Gynoecium.—5-lobed stigma, pubescent, 5 carpels,  
coenocarp hypogyn.  
E. Spring flowering response period:  
45 FRG.—50% of plants with at least one flower open  
16 weeks after stick of unrooted cuttings.  
F. Outdoor flower production: Good.  
G. Durability: Good.

Plant

- A. Foliage:  
    *Form.*—Kidney shaped.  
    *Margin.*—Undulate, bicrenate.  
    *Color (abaxial).*—ca. RHS 136 B.  
    *Color (adaxial).*—ca. RHS 138 B to 136 C.  
    *Color (zonation).*—ca. RHS 136 A.  
    *Tolerance of botrytis.*—Good.  
B. General appearance and form:  
    *Internode length.*—Normal.  
    *Branching pattern.*—Good.

*Height.*—Relatively tall.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium known as  
5 *Pelagonium zonale*, to be known by the cultivar name  
Praeludium, as described and illustrated, and particu-  
larly characterized by the combination of characteris-  
tics of: an intensive-red colored flower; a semi-double  
flower form; a dark green foliage with a slight zonation;  
10 robust foliage; a large umbel; and a good rooting pat-  
tern.

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**U.S. Patent**

**Apr. 4, 1989**

**Plant 6,716**

