

[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED SERENADE

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[56] References Cited

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

PEL 118 3/1985 Fed. Rep. of Germany
101NV87 4/1987 Italy

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct geranium plant known by the culti-
var name Serenade is characterized by a large umbel, a
large diameter of the corolla, strong zonation of the
foliage, and dark green foliage.

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
Serenade.

Serenade is a product of a planned breeding program
which had the objective of creating new geranium culti-
vars with an intensive-red flower color, single flower
form, and dark green foliage with a pronounced dark
zonation.

Serenade was originated from a hybridization made
in a controlled breeding program in Rheinberg, FRG,
in 1982-83. The female parent was an unnamed seed-
ling. The male parent of Serenade was also an unnamed
seedling.

Serenade was discovered and selected as one flower-
ing plant within the progeny of the stated cross by
Guenter Duemmen in 1984 in a controlled environment
in Rheinberg.

The first act of asexual reproduction of Serenade 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
Guenter Duemmen. Horticultural examination of se-
lected units initiated in July 1984 has demonstrated that
the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed
for Serenade are firmly fixed and are retained through
successive generations of asexual reproduction.

Serenade 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
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 Sere-
nade which in combination distinguish this geranium as
a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Large umbel;
2. Large diameter of the corolla;

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3. Strong zonation of the foliage; and
4. Dark green foliage;

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the pres-
ent inventors, the most similar in comparison to Sere-
nade is Bundeskanzler. In comparison to Bundeskan-
zler, Serenade has a larger umbel, and a stronger zona-
tion of the foliage.

The accompanying photographic drawing shows
typical flower and foliage characteristics of Serenade,
with colors being as true as possible with illustrations 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 Serenade.
Commercial.—Geranium.

Inflorescence

A. Umbel:

Average diameter.—10 to 12 cm.

Average depth.—7 to 8 cm.

Peduncle length.—12 to 15 cm.

Pedicel length.—3 to 3.5 cm.

B. Corolla:

Average diameter.—4.5 to 5.5 cm.

Form.—Single.

Color (general tonality from a distance of three me-
ters).—ca. RHS 42 B to 44 B.

Color (abaxial).—ca. RHS 42 B to 44 B.

Color (adaxial).—ca. RHS 42 B to 40 C.

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:

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FRG.—50% of plants with at least one flower open
14 weeks after stick of unrooted cuttings.

F. Outdoor flower production: Good.
G. Durability: Good.

Plant

A. Foliage:

Form.—Kidney shaped.
Margin.—Bicrenated.
Color (abaxial).—ca. RHS 136 B to 136 C.
Color (adaxial).—ca. RHS 138 B to 136 C.
Color (zonation).—ca. RHS 136 A.
Tolerance of botrytis.—Good.

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B. General appearance and form:

Internode length.—Normal.
Branching pattern.—Good.
Height.—Medium.

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I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium known as
Pelargonium zonala, to be known by the cultivar name
Serenade, as described and illustrated, and particularly
10 characterized by the combination of characteristics of: a
large umbel; a large diameter of the corolla; a strong
zonation of the foliage; and dark green foliage.

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U.S. Patent

Apr. 25, 1989

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