

[54] DISTINCT VARIETY OF GERANIUM PLANT
NAMED FOX

[75] Inventor: Christa Hofmann, Dresden, German
Democratic Rep.

[73] Assignee: Oglevee Ltd., Connellsville, Pa.

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Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Webb, Burden, Ziesenheim &
Webb

[57] ABSTRACT

A new geranium cultivar is distinguished by its brilliant
fluorescent fuschia color with orange highlights. It is a
compact, upright, well-branched plant of excellent con-
formation. The attractive dark foliage compliments the
brilliant color of the flower and the healthy foliage is an
improvement to current varieties in this color class.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct
cultivar of *Pelargonium hortorum* which is a zonal gera-
nium known by the varital name Fox. The new variety
is a seedling resulting from a cross of the varieties Kar-
dinal and Purpurball (commercialized in the United
States as Veronica under U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,054).

The new variety was discovered in a selective breed-
ing program by Mrs. Christa Hofmann.

The new cultivar was discovered in 1984 at the VEB
Saatzucht Zierpflanzen Dresden, German Democratic
Republic, and was first asexually reproduced by cut-
tings in Dresden, German Democratic Republic, and
has been repeatedly asexually reproduced over a two-
year period by cuttings for Oglevee Associates, Inc. in
Connellsville, Pa. It has also been trialed and field tested
over the summers of 1987 and 1988 in Connellsville, Pa.
and has been found to retain its distinctive characteris-
tics through successive propagations.

The new cultivar is a compact, upright well-
branched plant of excellent conformation and has at-
tractive dark foliage which compliments the brilliant
fluorescent fuschia color of the flower. The healthy
foliage is an improvement to the current varieites such
as Aurora in this color class. The plant is slightly larger
than Veronica and the overall color contains more pur-
ple tones than Veronica.

The new cultivar, when grown in a greenhouse in
Connellsville, Pa., using natural light and 60° F. night
temperature, 68° F. day temperature and 71° F. vent
temperature, has a response of eight weeks from a well-
rooted cutting to a flowering plant in a four inch (10
cm) pot.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photographic drawing illustrates
a new cultivar, the color being as nearly true as possible
with color illustrations of this type.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following detailed description set forth the char-
acteristics of the new cultivar. The data which defines
these characteristics were collected from asexual repro-
ductions carried out for Oglevee Associates, Inc., in
Connellsville, Pa. The plant history was taken on eight-
week plants in which rooted cuttings were potted Aug.
4, 1987 and subsequently flowered on Sept. 20, 1987.

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Plants were grown in a soilless media with constant
fertilizer of 250–275 parts per million nitrogen and po-
tassium. Readings were taken with 200–220 candles of
fluorescent cool, white light. Color references are pri-
marily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horti-
cultural Society of London.

THE PLANT

Classification:
Botanical.—*Pelargonium* × *hortorum*.
Commercial.—Zonal Florists' Geranium.

Form: Bush. Basal branching, free and early flowering,
upright habit.

Height: 23.0–26.0 cm from media surface.

Growth: Free-branching from base, medium internode
length.

Strength: Stands upright without artificial support.

Foliage: Large leaves with zonation of darker green
than leaf; not easily noticed.

Leaves: Leaf description of a mature, fully expanded
leaf at least 4 nodes below apical meristem.
Size.—8.0–15.0 cm.
Shape.—Reniform, cordate base.
Margin.—Crenate.
Texture.—Downy, dull (not reflective).
Color.—Outside margin — Green group 137A.
Center.—Green group 137B.
Ribs and veins.—Palmate veination; Yellow-green
group 144B

Petioles: Stalked petiole; 7.0–10.0 cm; Green group
137B to Green group 144A.

Stem:
Color.—Yellow-green group 144A.
Internodes.—1.5–3.0 cm.

THE BUD

The umbel contains 20–35 flower buds.
As the petals emerge from the sepals, they appear
Red-purple group 64B.

INFLORESCENCE

Blooming habit: Continuous, upright, semi-double,
hemispherical in shape.
Size: 8.0–12.0 cm across.
Borne: Umbel, florets on pedicel, pedicel on peduncle;
4.0–6.0 cm above foliage.

Tonality from a distance: Fluorescent fuschia with orange highlights on top of medium green foliage.

Florets:

Form.—Flat with petiloids.

Color.—Top — Red-purple group 66A. Bottom — 5 Red-purple group 61C.

Petals.—7-10 separate-not united; margin entire obovate; palmate veination; smooth; flat to slightly cupped.

Size.—5.0 cm.

Texture.—Smooth surface.

Petaloids:

Quantity.—7 to 10.

Shape.—There are two types of petaloid shapes. 15 The center petaloids are narrow, elongated and twisted. The outside petaloids are petal-like in shape.

Color.—Orange-red group 33A base of the center of the petaloids. The larger petal-like petaloids 20 are Red-purple group 57B.

Medicel:

Length.—3.0-4.0 cm in length.

Color.—Apical end — Red-purple group 59B; basal 25 end — Yellow-green group 144B.

Peduncle: Arises from node; opposite leaf petiole.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens:

Anthers.—Eliptical 1.0-2.0 mm.

Filaments.—White at base — colored toward tip same as center of florets; irregular in shape; flat at base and twisted at tip; 5.0-7.0 mm in length.

Pollen.—Golden brown initially; later turns dark brown.

10 Pistils:

Number.—1 to 5 parted stigma.

Length.—0.5-0.9 cm in length.

Stigma.—5 parted; colored same as floret.

Style.—1; pale red to reddish color; 2.0-3.0 mm in length.

Ovaries: 3.0-5.0 mm in length; yellow-green; very pubescent; superior.

Fruit: None observed.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of geranium plant characterized by a compact, upright branched plant of excellent conformation, dark foliage which compliments the brilliant two-tone effect of the florets, a healthy foliage and a brilliant fluorescent fuschia color substantially as herein shown and described.

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U.S. Patent

Dec. 26, 1989

Plant 7,083

