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United States Patent [19]  
Lemon

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[54] VARIETY OF GERANIUM PLANT NAMED  
NAMED 'COTTON CANDY'  
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[73] Assignee: John Bodger & Sons Company, So. El  
Monte, Calif.  
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Related U.S. Application Data

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doned.  
[51] Int. CL<sup>6</sup> ..... A01H 5/00  
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[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./87.12

[56] References Cited  
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  
P.P. 5,374 12/1984 Schumann ..... Plt./87.12  
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[57] ABSTRACT  
The cultivar is characterized by its very dark foliage and  
medium salmon color flower. Its strong growth habit and  
free flowering provides for superb cuttings and also for  
quick recovery following wet weather conditions. The  
blooms are heat tolerant.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cul-  
tivar of *Pelargonium* × *hortorum* known by the varietal  
name Cotton Candy (Oglevee No. 1283, Bodger No. 1GM 5  
172-5). The new variety was discovered in a selective  
breeding program by David Lemon at Bodger Seeds, Ltd.,  
Lompoc, Calif. The new variety is a selection from the  
crossing of Schone Helena (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 5,374) which  
is a salmon rose colored flower having medium green  
foliage with Eclipse Light Salmon (unpatented) which can  
be distinguished from the claimed cultivar by its light  
salmon color and by its light edged flower.  
The new cultivar was first asexually reproduced by cut-  
tings at Oglevee Ltd., Connellsville, Pa., and has been  
repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings at Oglevee Ltd.  
in Connellsville, Pa. It has been found to retain its distinctive  
characteristics through successive propagations.  
The new cultivar, when grown in a glass greenhouse in  
Connellsville, Pa., using full light, 60° Fahrenheit night  
temperature, 68° Fahrenheit day temperature, 72° Fahren-  
heit vent temperature and grown in a soilless media of  
constant fertilizer 200–250 parts per million of nitrogen and  
potassium has a response time of six weeks from the rooted  
cutting to a flowering plant in a 10.0 cm pot.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying drawing illustrates the new cultivar,  
the color being as nearly true as possible with color illus-  
trations of this type.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth characteris-  
tics of the new cultivar. The data which defines each  
characteristic was collected from asexual reproductions car-  
ried out by Oglevee Ltd. in Connellsville, Pa. The plant  
histories were taken on rooted cuttings believed to have been  
potted on approximately Feb. 18, 1995 and flowering on  
approximately Apr. 1, 1995 under full light and greenhouse,  
and colorings were taken indoors under 200–220 foot  
candles of fluorescent cool white light using the R.H.S.  
Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

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The Plant

Classification:  
*Botanical.*—*Pelargonium*×*hortorum*.  
Form: Semi-dwarf mound.  
*Height.*—16.0–18.0 cm above the media surface.  
*Growth.*—Free and early flowering.  
*Strength.*—Free standing.  
Foliage: Stalked leaf attachment.  
Leaves:  
*Size.*—8.5–10.0 cm across; fully expanded leaf.  
*Shape.*—Reniform; cordate base.  
*Margin.*—Crenate.  
*Texture.*—Slightly pubescent; leathery.  
*Color.*—Top: Green group 137A; Zone: Not present.  
True dark green leaves generally are not considered  
to have a zone, however due to stress or cultural  
conditions some appearance of a zone may occur.  
Bottom: Green group 137C.  
*Ribs and veins.*—Palmate venation: Color: Yellow/  
green group 147B.  
Petioles:  
*Length.*—8.0–9.5 cm.  
*Color.*—Green group 137B.  
Stem:  
*Color.* Yellow/Green group 146B.  
*Internodes.*—1.0–2.5 cm in length.

The Bud

Shape: Upright; hemispherical cluster.  
Size: 2.5–3.5 cm across.

Inflorescence

Blooming habit: Continuous blooming; semi-double; slow  
to shatter.  
Size: 10.0–13.0 cm across.  
Borne: Umbel; florets on pedicel; pedicel on peduncle;  
6.0–9.0 cm above foliage.  
Florets:  
*Closed.*—Bud size: Width: 0.5–0.7 cm: Length:  
0.8–1.0 cm; elliptical.  
*Open.*—Form—Flat to slightly cupped; petaloids  
present; 29 florets per inflorescence. Color—Top: Red  
Group 38A on petals with veining of Red Group

39B. fading to Red Group 38B on outer edges; florets have white centers; Bottom petals: Red Group 39D. Petals—7–9 in number. Size—4.0–5.0 cm. Texture and appearance—Smooth and satiny; appearance from a distance is a clean medium salmon above dark green foliage.

Petaloids:

*Quantity.*—0–3 .

*Shape.*—Flat; distorted shape.

*Color.*—Top: Red group 38A fading to Red group 39B; Bottom: Red group 39D.

Pedicel:

*Length.*—3.0–3.5 cm .

*Color.*—Greyed/purple group 183B.

Peduncle: Arises from the node opposite the leaf petiole.

*Length.*—15.0–17.0 cm.

*Color.*—Yellow/green group 146B with occasional shadings of Greyed/purple group 183B.

Persistence:

*Disease resistance.*—Not known.

*Lasting quality.*—Slow to shatter; holds up exceptionally well when exposed to outdoor conditions.

Reproductive Organs

Stamens:

*Anthers.*—2.0–2.5 mm in length.

*Filaments.*—Length: 8.0–9.0 mm; Color: white with pink tips.

*Pollen.*—Golden brown.

Pistils:

*Number.*—One.

*Length.*—6.5–7.5 mm.

*Stigma.*—Color: Red/purple group 60C; 5–6 parted.

*Style.*—Length: 3.0–4.0 mm; Color: Red/purple group 60C.

Ovaries: Color: Light green; pubescent; Length: 5.0–6.0 mm.

Fruit: None.

General Characteristics

Cotton Candy is a distinctive new variety with medium salmon bloom and dark green foliage. The very dark green foliage is unique in the Geranium market and the medium salmon flower creates a very dramatic contrast. Cotton Candy is more compact than a green leaf zonal Geranium allowing for more pots per given area for efficient product finishing. Cutting production and rooting times are both acceptable. Outdoor performance is outstanding in high heat and the variety is quick to recover after wet weather. Given all these positive properties, this variety should please both the grower and gardener alike.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of Geranium plant, substantially as shown and described.

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U.S. Patent

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