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[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED 'BALCOLAV'

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[57] ABSTRACT

[21] Appl. No.: 09/257,091

A new and distinct cultivar of Geranium plant named 'Balcolav', characterized by its numerous lavender-colored double flowers; upright and spreading growth habit; basal branching; vigor; and medium green leaves with dark maroon zonation pattern.

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1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Geranium plant, botanically known as *Pelargonium peltatum*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name Balcolav.

The new Geranium can be compared to the cultivar, Butterfly, not patented. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Arroyo Grande, Calif., plants of the new Geranium differ from plants of the cultivar Butterfly in the following characteristics:

The new Geranium is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Arroyo Grande, Calif. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new cultivars with freely-branching and vigorous growth habit, medium or dark green-colored foliage, uniform flowering, and interesting flower and foliage colors.

1. Plant habit of the new Geranium is upright and spreading whereas plant habit of the cultivar Butterfly is upright and trailing.
2. Plants of the new Geranium usually have fewer flowers per umbel than plants of the cultivar Butterfly.
3. Flower color of the new Geranium is slightly lighter than flower color of the cultivar Butterfly.

The new Geranium originated from a cross made by the Inventor of the proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection BFP-1137 as a male, or pollen parent, with the proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection BFP-1370 as the female, or seed parent. The cultivar Balcolav was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif., in December, 1996.

A detailed comparison of plants of the cultivar Balcolav and the cultivar Butterfly, as grown side by side, appears in Chart A at the end of the specification.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Arroyo Grande, Calif., has shown that the unique features of this new Geranium are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Balcolav'. Flower and foliage colors in the photograph may appear different from the actual colors due to light reflectance.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Balcolav'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Balcolav' as a new and distinct cultivar.

The cultivar Balcolav has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype. The following observations, measurements and comparisons describe plants grown in 10-cm pots in Arroyo Grande, Calif., under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 20 to 22° C., night temperatures about 18 to 20° C. and light levels generally about 2,500 to 3,000 footcandles.

1. Numerous lavender-colored double flowers.
2. Upright and spreading growth habit.
3. Basal branching and vigorous.
4. Medium green leaves with dark maroon zonation pattern.

In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

The new Geranium differs from plants of its sibling cultivar, 'Balcolburg', U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 09/257,098, primarily in plant habit and flower color.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium peltatum* cultivar Balcolav.

The new Geranium differs from plants of its sibling cultivar, 'Balcolilac', U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 09/257,088, in plant habit, leaf zonation pattern, flower form, flower size and number of petals per flower.

Parentage:
Male parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection BFP-1137.

The new Geranium differs from plants of its sibling cultivar, 'Balcolink', U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 09/257,099, in plant habit, number of flowers per umbel, flower form, and flower color.

Female parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection BFP-1370.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About 7 days at 18° C.

Time to develop roots.—About 21 days at 18° C.

Rooting habit.—Fibrous and freely branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Upright and spreading growth habit. Appropriate for 10-cm and larger containers.

Crop time.—Starting with a rooted cutting, about twelve weeks are required to produce a finished flowering plant in 10-cm container.

Growth and branching habit.—Vigorous and basally branching with about three to five lateral branches at the base. Pinching, that is, removal of terminal apices, enhances branching.

Plant height (to top of foliage).—About 16 to 18 cm.

Plant width.—About 20 to 24 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10 to 17 cm. Internode length: About 3 to 4.5 cm. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, opposite. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About 7 to 9. Length: About 4 to 4.5 cm. Width: About 6.5 to 7.2 cm. Shape: Peltate, palmately lobed. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate. Venation: Palmate. Texture: Leathery; shiny; glabrous. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: 137B. Young foliage, lower surface: 146B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Close to 137A; zonation pattern, 187A in color, about 3 to 5 mm in width. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 146A. Venation, upper surface: 146A. Venation, lower surface: 146A. Petiole: Length: About 5.2 to 6.6 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Color: 146A.

Flower description:

Flower type and habit.—Lavender-colored flowers. Freely and continuously flowering. Flowers arranged in substantially hemispherical umbels arising from apical leaf axils. Umbels displayed above or beyond the foliage. At full flowering, usually about four to seven open umbels and six or seven developing umbels per plant. Flowers double and round. Umbels persistent. Not fragrant.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden, flowering is continuous from spring until fall.

Umbels.—Number of flowers per umbel: About 12 to 14. Diameter: About 8.5 to 10 cm. Height: About 7 to 8.5 cm.

Flowers.—Diameter: About 5.3 to 6 cm. Depth (height): About 1.5 to 2 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.2 to 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 6 to 9 mm. Shape: Oval, pointed.

Petals.—Quantity: About 8 to 10 petals and about 6 to 7 elongated petaloids per flower. Arrangement:

Imbricate. Length: About 2.7 to 3.4 cm. Width: About 2 to 2.9 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture: Velvety. Color, fully opened flowers: Upper petals, upper surface: Background, 77C; venation, 59B; white, 155D interveinal areas. Upper petals, lower surface: 75B; venation, 59B. Lower petals, upper surface: Background, 77C; distinct purple, 78A, spot close to center about one-third the distance from base. Lower petals, lower surface: 75B. Fading to, upper surface: 75C.

Sepals.—Quantity: About 5, not imbricate. Length: About 1.3 to 1.5 cm. Width: About 3 to 5 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Pointed. Margin: Entire. Texture: Pilose. Color: Upper surface: 146B. Lower surface: 146C.

Peduncle (umbel stem).—Length: About 10.5 to 13 cm. Angle: Erect to 30°. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: 146A.

Pedicle (individual flower stem).—Length: About 3 to 3.5 cm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 146A; streaks, 183A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther size: About 2.5 to 3 mm. Anther color: 59B. Pollen color: 168A. Gynoecium: Ovary color: Green.

Disease resistance: Resistance to pathogens common to Pelargonium has not been observed.

Seed development: Seed production has not been observed.

CHART A

CHARACTERISTIC	'BALCOLAV'	'BUTTERFLY'
PLANT HABIT	Upright, spreading	Upright, trailing
PLANT HEIGHT (to top of foliage)	About 16 to 18 cm	About 13 to 14 cm
PLANT WIDTH	About 20 to 24 cm	About 30 to 31 cm
NUMBER OF FLOWERS PER UMBEL	About 12 to 14	About 14 to 16
PETAL COLOR, UPPER PETALS, UPPER SURFACE	Background, 77C; venation, 59B; interveinal, 155D	Background, 84A; venation, slightly darker than 61A; interveinal, 155D
PETAL COLOR, UPPER PETALS, LOWER SURFACE	75B; venation, 59B	84C; venation, 61A
PETAL COLOR, LOWER PETALS, UPPER SURFACE	Background 77C; spot, 78A	Background, 84A; spot, 78A
PETAL COLOR, LOWER PETALS, LOWER SURFACE	75B	84C

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of Geranium plant named 'Balcolav', as illustrated and described.

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