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Trees

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(54) **GERANIUM PLANT NAMED 'BALFANCORI'**

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(58) **Field of Search** Plt./330

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Geranium plant named 'Balfancori', characterized by its upright and mounded growth habit; freely basal branching habit; dark green leaves with darker green zonation pattern; and light red-colored semi-double flowers.

1 Drawing Sheet

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

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, dark green-colored foliage, uniform flowering, and interesting flower and foliage colors.

The new Geranium originated from a cross made by the Inventor of the proprietary *Pelargonium*×*hortorum* selection 8181-8 as the female, or seed, parent with the proprietary *Pelargonium*×*hortorum* selection 7788-35 as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar 'Balfancori' was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny from this cross in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif., in 1998.

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.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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

1. Upright and mounded growth habit.
2. Freely basal branching habit.
3. Dark green leaves with darker green zonation pattern.
4. Light red-colored semi-double flowers.

Plants of the new Geranium differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in flower color and flower form.

The new Geranium can be compared to the cultivar, 'Eclipse Salmon Orange', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat No. 7,969. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Arroyo Grande, Calif., plants of the new Geranium differ

from plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Salmon Orange' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Geranium are taller and more vigorous than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Salmon Orange'.
2. Plants of the new Geranium have larger leaves than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Salmon Orange'.
3. Plants of the new Geranium have more and larger flower umbels than plants of the cultiver 'Eclipse Salmon Orange'.
4. Plants of the new Geranium have larger flowers but fewer flowers per umbel than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Salmon Orange'.
5. Plants of the new Geranium have longer peduncles than flower color of the cultivar 'Eclipse Salmon Orange'.

The new Geranium can be compared to the cultivar, 'Eclipse Light Salmon', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,926. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Arroyo Grande, Calif., plants of the new Geranium differ from plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Light Salmon' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Geranium are taller and are more vigorous than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Light Salmon'.
2. Plants of the new Geranium have longer leaf petioles than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Light Salmon'.
3. Plants of the new Geranium have smaller flower umbels with fewer flowers per umble than plants of the cultivar 'Eclipse Light Salmon'.
4. Flower color of the new Geranium is darker than flower color of the cultivar 'Eclipse Light Salmon'.

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 flowering plant of 'Balfancori'. Flower and foliage colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Geranium.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar 'Balfancori' 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 10-cm pots in West Chicago, Ill., under commercial practice in a polycarbonate-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 20 to 22° C., night temperatures about 18 to 20° C. and light levels about 2,500 to 3,000 foot-candles. Plants used for the photograph and description were about 8 to 10 weeks from planting rooted cuttings. 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.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar 'Balfancori'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium×hortorum* selection 8181-8.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium×hortorum* selection 7788-35.

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.

Root description.—Fibrous, freely branching.

Plant description:

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

Crop time.—Starting with a rooted cutting, about 8 to 10 weeks are required to produced a finished flowering plant in 10-cm container.

Growth and branching habit.—Vigourous and freely basal branching with about 7 lateral branches at the base. Pinching, that is, removal of terminal apices, is typically not required.

Plant height (*to top of foliage*).—About 14.3 cm.

Plant width.—About 22.4 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 12 cm. Internode length: About 1.4 cm. Color: 144B.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, opposite. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About 12. Length: About 5.3 cm. Width: About 8.4 cm. Shape: Reniform. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate. Margin: Crenate, undulate. Venation: Palmate. Texture: Velvety; pubescent along veins on lower surface. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Closest to 137A; zonation pattern, 137C in color and located on the outer half of the leaf. Young foliage, lower surface: Closest to 137C. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 139A; zonation pattern, darker than 139A in color, about 2 cm in width, and located on the outer half of the leaf. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 138B. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: 144A. Petiole: Length: About 10.7 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Color: Between 146A and 147A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and type.—Light red-colored flowers arranged in hemispherical umbels arising from apical leaf axils. Umbels displayed above the foliage. At full flowering, usually about 3 open umbels and about 3 developing umbels per plant. Flowers semi-double and rounded in shape. Umbels persistent. Flowers 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. Diameter: About 8.8 cm. Height: About 5.2 cm. Flower diameter: About 4.5 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 8 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Before showing color, closest to 144A; when showing color, 34A.

Petals/petaloids.—Quantity: About 6 to 8 petals and about 1 or 2 petaloids per flower. Petaloids variable in size and shape. Arrangement: Imbricate. Petal length: Upper petals: About 2.9 cm. Lower petals: About 2.5 cm. Petal width: Upper petals: About 1.9 cm. Lower petals: About 2.5 cm. Petal shape: Obovate. Petal/petaloid apex: Rounded. Petal/petaloid base: Attenuate. Petal/petaloid margin: Entire. Petal/petaloid texture: Smooth. Petal/petaloid color: Upper surface: Between 40A and 43A, venation towards base of upper petals, 46A. Lower surface: Closest to 43C; faint venation towards base of lower petals, 46C.

Sepals.—Quantity: About 5, not imbricate. Length: About 1.1 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Ensiform. Apex: Narrowly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Closest to 144A.

Peduncle (*umbel stem*).—Length: About 13.5 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A overlain with 187A.

Pedicel (*individual flower stem*).—Length: About 3.1 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Closest to 183A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther quantity: About 5. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Closest to 186B. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Closest to 168B. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One. Pistil length: About 8 mm. Stigma shape: Five-parted, star-shaped. Stigma color: Closest to 59B. Style length: About 2 mm. Style color: Closest to 59D.

Seed.—Not observed.

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

It is claimed:

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

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