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(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Trees

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(54) **GERANIUM PLANT NAMED ‘BALFANSHOP’**
(75) **Inventor: Scott C. Trees, Shell Beach, CA (US)**
(73) **Assignee: Ball FloraPlant, A division of Ball Horticultural Co., West Chicago, IL (US)**
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Primary Examiner—Bruce R. Campell
Assistant Examiner—Kent L. Bell
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—C. A. Whealy

(57) **ABSTRACT**
A new and distinct cultivar of Geranium plant named ‘Balfanshop’, characterized by its upright and mounded growth habit; freely basal branching habit; dark green leaves with darker green zonation pattern; light purple-colored semi-double flowers; and numerous flowers per umbel.

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×hortorum*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Balfan-shop’.
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 interest-
ing flower and foliage colors.
The new Geranium originated from a cross made by the Inventor of the *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar ‘Americana Violet’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,750, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar ‘Fisbra’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,458, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar ‘Balfanshop’ 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 repro-
duced 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 ‘Balfan-shop’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Bal-fanshop’ 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 purple-colored semi-double flowers.
5. Numerous flowers per umbel.
Compared to plants of the female parent, the cultivar ‘Americana Violet’, plants of the new Geranium have lighter purple-colored flowers. Compared to plants of the male parent, the single-flowered cultivar ‘Fisbra’, plants of the new Geranium have lighter purple-colored flowers.

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The new Geranium can be compared to the cultivar, ‘Eclipse Pink’, not patented. However, in side-by-side com-parisons conducted in Arroyo Grande, Calif., plants of the new Geranium differ from plants of the cultivar ‘Eclipse
Pink’ in the following characteristics:
1. Plants of the new Geranium are more compact than plants of the cultivar ‘Eclipse Pink’.
2. Plants of the new Geranium have smaller umbels than plants of the cultivar ‘Eclipse Pink’.
The new Geranium can also be compared to the cultivar, ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,230. However, in side-by-side comparisons conducted in Arroyo Grande, Calif., plants of the new Geranium differ from plants of the cultivar ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’ in the following characteristics:
1. Plants of the new Geranium are more compact and have shorter internodes than plants of the cultivar ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’.
2. Plants of the new Geranium have smaller umbels than plants of the cultivar ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’.
3. Plants of the new Geranium have shorter peduncles than plants of the cultivar ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’.
4. Flower petals of the new Geranium do not have a purple spot whereas flower petals of the cultivar ‘BFP-285 Pink Parfait’ have a purple spot.

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 repro-
ductions of this type. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Balfan-shop’. 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 ‘Balfanshop’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as tempera-

ture 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 'Balfanshop'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar 'Americana Violet', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,750.

Male parent.—*Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar 'Fisbra', disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,458.

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 cuttings, about 8 to 10 weeks are required to produced a finished flowering plant in 10-cm container.

Growth and branching habit.—Vigorous and freely basal branching with about 6 lateral branches at the base. Pinching, that is, removal of terminal apices, is typically not required.

Plant height (to top of foliage).—About 11.8 cm.

Plant width.—About 20 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 12 cm. Internode length: About 7 mm. Color: 146C.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, opposite. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About 10. Length: About 5.4 cm. Width: About 8.6 cm. Shape: Reniform. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate. Margin: Crenate, undulate. Venation: Palmate. Texture: Velvety; upper surface pubescent and pubescence along veins on lower surface. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Closest to 137A; zonation pattern, 139A in color and located on the outer half of the leaf. Young foliage, lower surface: Closest to 138A. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Closest to 137A; slight zonation pattern, 139A in color, about 2 cm in width, and located on the outer half of the leaf. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Closest to 137A. Venation, upper and lower surfaces: Closest to 144A. Petiole: Length: About 7.7 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Color: 146B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and type.—Light purple-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 16. Diameter: About 8.6 cm. Height: About 4.3 cm. Flower diameter: About 4.3 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.4 cm. Diameter: About 9 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Before showing color, closest to 143A; when showing color, between 67B and 67C.

Petals/petaloids.—Quantity: About 7 to 9 petals and about 1 or 2 petaloids per flower. Petaloids variable in size and shape. Arrangement: Imbricate. Petal length: Upper petals: About 2.7 cm. Lower petals: About 2.4 cm. Petal width: Upper petals: About 1.8 cm. Lower petals: About 2.1 cm. Petal shape: Oblong. Petal/petaloid apex: Rounded. Petal/petaloid base: Attenuate. Petal/petaloid margin: Entire. Petal/petaloid texture: Smooth. Petal/petaloid color: Upper surface: Between 73A and 80C; towards base of upper petals, white, close to 155D. Lower surface: Closest to 73C; venation on upper petals, 73A.

Sepals.—Quantity: About 5, not imbricate. Length: About 1.4 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Ensiform. Apex: Narrowly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture: Densely pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Closest to 143A.

Peduncle (umbel stem).—Length: About 9.1 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Closest to 144A.

Pedicel (individual flower stem).—Length: About 2.6 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Closest to 144A overlain with 84B towards flower.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther quantity: About 5. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Closest to 186A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Closest to 168B. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One. Pistil length: About 9 mm. Stigma shape: Five-parted, star-shaped. Stigma color: Closest to 71D. Style length: About 2.5 mm. Style color: Closest to 71D.

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 'Balfanshop', as herein illustrated and described.

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