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Trees

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

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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

1 Drawing Sheet

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR DESIGNATION

Pelargonium peltatum cultivar 'Balcoldaav'.

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 name 'Balcoldaav'.

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 freely flowering Geraniums with attractive flower and foliage colors.

The new Geranium originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor of a proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection identified as code number BFP-1441, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection identified as code number 8936-5, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar 'Balcoldaav' was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny from this cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Arroyo Grande, Calif., in 1999.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken at Arroyo Grande, Calif., since June, 2000, 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 'Balcoldaav'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Balcoldaav' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Cascading and mounded growth habit.

2. Freely basal branching habit.

3. Dark green-colored leaves with darker zonation pattern.

4. Light purple-colored double flowers.

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

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 differed from plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Geranium were more freely flowering than plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly'.

2. Plants of the new Geranium had larger umbels than plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly'.

3. Umbels of plants of the new Geranium had fewer flowers than umbels of plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly'.

4. Plants of the new Geranium had longer peduncles than plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly'.

5. Plants of the new Geranium had shorter pedicels than plants of the cultivar 'Butterfly'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate 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. 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.

The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Balcoldaav'.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical flowers of 'Balcoldaav'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar 'Balcoldaav' 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 aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown 10-cm pots in Arroyo Grande, Calif., 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 photographs 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, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium peltatum* cultivar 'Balcoldaav'.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection BFP-1441, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary *Pelargonium peltatum* selection 8936-5, not patented.

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

Plant height (*to top of foliage*).—About 16.3 cm.

Plant width.—About 45 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 12 cm. Internode length: About 2 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 147B overlain with 187A.

Foliage description.—Leaves simple, generally symmetrical, abundant, opposite. Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: About twelve. Length: About 3.7 cm. Width: About 6.3 cm. Shape: Reniform. Apex: Acute. Base: Cordate. Margin: Palmatifid. Venation pattern: Palmate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly pubescent. Color: Young foliage, upper surface: Between 144A and 146A. Young foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 147A; zonation pattern 187A and located towards the center of leaf; venation, close to 146A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, close to 146A. Petiole: Length: About 4.7 cm. Diameter: About 2.3 mm. Color: 146A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement and type.—Light purple-colored flowers arranged in hemispherical umbles arising from apical leaf axils. Umbels displayed above the foliage. At full flowering, usually about 13 open umbles and developing umbels per plant. Flowers 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 seven. Diameter: About 8.8 cm. Height: About 5 cm. Flower diameter: About 5.3 cm. Flower height (depth): About 1.2 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 2.1 cm. Diameter: About 1 cm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 73A.

Petals/petaloids.—Quantity: About eleven petals and about six petaloids per flower. Petaloids variable in size and shape. Arrangement: Imbricate. Petal length: Upper petals: About 3.2 cm. Lower petals: About 2.9 cm. Petal width, upper and lower petals: About 2.1 cm. Petal shape: Obovate. Petal/petaloid apex: Rounded. Petal/petaloid base: Attenuate. Petal/petaloid margin: Entire. Petal/petaloid texture, upper and lower surfaces: Velvety; glabrous. Petal/petaloid color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Upper petals/petaloids: 81B; towards margin, 82D; central splotch and veins, 71C. Lower petals/petaloids: 81B; towards margin, 82D; central spot, 71C; veins 71D. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Upper petals/petaloids: 82D; venation, 71C. Lower petals/petaloids: 82D; venation, 71D.

Sepals.—Quantity: About five, not imbricate. Length: About 1.4 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Shape: Ensiform. Apex: Narrowly acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pilose. Color, upper surface: 146A overlain with 187A. Color, lower surface: 146A.

Peduncle (*umbel stem*).—Length: About 7.6 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Sparse pubescence. Color: Between 143A and 146A; with subsequent development, overlain with 187A.

Pedicel (*individual flower stem*).—Length: About 2.8 cm. Angle: Erect. Strength: Strong. Texture: Slight pubescence. Color: 187A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther quantity: About ten. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther color: Slightly darker than 77A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: Closest to 170A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One. Pistil length: About 1.4 cm. Stigma shape: Five-parted, star-shaped. Stigma color: Between 71A and 70A. Style length: About 4 mm. Style color: Between 70B and 71B.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development has not been observed.

Disease/pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to Pelargonium has not been observed.

It is claimed:

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

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