



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

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(54) **GERANIUM PLANT NAMED**
‘BALSHOROFLA’

(50) Latin Name: *Pelargonium×hortorum*
Varietal Denomination: **Balshorofla**

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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 128 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/023,225**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./328**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./328
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP9,596 P * 6/1996 Trees Plt./325
PP9,765 P * 12/1996 Utecht Plt./325

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve
Retrieval Software 2005/02 Citation for ‘Balshorofla’.*

* cited by examiner

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& Mortimer

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named
‘Balshorofla’, characterized by its semi-double pink-colored
flowers with darker pink freckle, dark green-colored foliage,
and vigorous, upright, and mounded growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Pel-*
argonium×hortorum.

Variety denomination: ‘Balshorofla’.

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 cultivar name
‘Balshorofla’.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Arroyo Grande, Calif., during October 2000. The
objective of the breeding program was the development of
Geranium cultivars with an upright mounded growth habit,
dark green-colored foliage, and new and unique flower
coloration.

The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar was
‘Fisbravo’, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,765, characterized by its
pink freckle-colored flowers, medium vigor, and dark green-
colored foliage. The male (pollen) parent of the new cultivar
was ‘Butterfly’, not patented, characterized by its lavender-
colored flowers, trailing habit, and medium green-colored
foliage. The new *Geranium* was discovered and selected by
the inventor as a single flowering plant within the progeny
of the above stated cross-pollination during March 2001 at
Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since March 2001 at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and
West Chicago, Ill., has demonstrated that the new cultivar
reproduces true to type with all characteristics, as herein
described, firmly fixed and retained through successive
generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish

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‘Balshorofla’ as a new and unique cultivar of *Geranium*
plant.

1. Semi-double pink-colored flowers with darker pink
freckle.

2. Dark green-colored foliage.

3. Vigorous upright and mounted growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in flower color, number of florets per
umbel, and growth vigor and from plants of the male parent
primarily in flower color, foliage color, and growth habit.

Of the many commercially available *Geranium* cultitvars
known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the
new cultivar is ‘BFP-790 Pink Parfait’, U.S. Plant Pat. No.
9,596. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of the
new cultivar differed from plants of ‘BFP-790 Pink Parfait’
in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar exhibit darker flower color
than plants of ‘BFP-790 Pink Parfait’.

2. Plants of the new cultivar exhibit a distinct leaf
zonation whereas plants of ‘BFP-790 Pink Parfait’ do
not have leaf zonation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical flower and foliage characteristics of the
new cultivar. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from
the color values cited in the detailed description, which
accurately describes the colors of ‘Balshorofla’. The plants
were grown for 8 weeks in a greenhouse at West Chicago,
Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and
flowering habit of ‘Balshorofla’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of a single flower of 'Balshorofla'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The color values were determined on Jul. 30, 2004 between 10:00 and 11:45 a.m. under natural light conditions, in West Chicago, Ill.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings taken from stock plants and grown in a double polycarbonate-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 10 cm pots for 8 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 65° F. to 70° F. (18° C. to 21° C.) during the day and approximately 60° F. to 65° F. (15° C. to 18° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 4,000–6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day. Plants were pinched at three weeks after the planting of a rooted cutting.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium x hortorum* cultivar Balshorofla.

Parentage:

Female parent.—'Fisbravo', U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,765.

Male parent.—'Butterfly', not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 10 to 14 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 21 to 28 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Crop time.—Approximately 8 to 9 weeks from planting of rooted cutting to finish.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, upright and mounded.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 18.6 cm. Width/area of spread: Approximately 25.4 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Approximately 2 branches per plant.

Branch.—Length: Approximately 4.8 cm. Diameter: Approximately 5.1 mm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A. Internode length at center of branch: Approximately 7.6 mm.

Foliage.—Number of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 11. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite. Shape: Reniform. Margin: Crenate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate, open. Venation pattern: Palmate. Upper surface texture: Densely pubescent. Lower surface texture: Moderately pubescent with dense pubescence along veins. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 147A with veins of 144A and zone darker than 147A. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: Closest to but more yellow than

137A with veins of 144A. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 4.5 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 7.3 cm. Petiole length: Approximately 5.8 cm. Petiole diameter: Approximately 2 mm. Petiole Texture: Pubescent on both upper and lower surface. Petiole color: 146B.

Flowering description:

Flowering habit.—'Balshorofla' is freely flowering under outdoor growing conditions with substantially continuous blooming from spring through autumn and year round in greenhouse environment.

Time to first flower.—Approximately 8 weeks after planting of rooted cutting.

Lastingness of individual bloom.—Approximately 5 to 7 days.

Inflorescence description:

Type.—Hemispherical umbel. Position: Above foliage. Number of open umbels at any one time: 4. Number of developing umbels at any one time: 2. Umbel diameter: Approximately 9.5 cm. Umbel height/depth: Approximately 7 cm. Number of fully open flowers per umbel: Approximately 12.

Peduncle.—Strong, erect. Length: Approximately 12.7 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.6 mm. Texture: Glandular pubescent. Gland color: Translucent. Color: 144A.

Flower description:

Bud rate of opening.—Generally requires 3 to 5 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Round. Length: Approximately 1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 7.2 mm. Petal color: N57A. Sepal color: 143B with overlay of 183A at base.

Corolla.—Form: Semi-double. Shape: Round, slightly cupped. Diameter/Width: Approximately 4.2 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.5 cm. Fragrance: None. Persistent.

Petals/petaloids.—Quantity: Approximately 7 petals and 7 petaloids, of varying shape, per flower. Arrangement: Imbricate. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture of upper and lower surface: Glabrous. Upper petal length: Approximately 2.4 cm. Upper petal and petaloid width: Approximately 1.6 cm. Upper petal color when fully open: Upper surface: Background of N57C with dusting of N66A, an area of 60A near center of petal and petaloid, and base of 62C with venation of 64A. Lower surface: Gradually fades from 68A at apex to 68C and venation of N66A at base. Lower petal length: Approximately 2.2 cm. Lower petal and petaloid width: Approximately 1.7 cm. Lower petal color, when fully open: Upper surface: N57C with small splotch of N57A in center. Lower surface: Gradually fades from 68A at apex to 68C and venation of N66A at base.

Pedicel.—Stength: Strong. Angle: Acute. Length: Approximately 2.5 cm. Diameter: Approximately 0.9 mm. Texture: Moderate soft, short glandular hairs. Gland color: Translucent. Color: 144A.

Calyx.—Formed by 5 sepals. Sepal shape: Lanceolate. Sepal apex: Acuminate. Sepal base: Truncate. Sepal margin: Entire. Sepal length: 1.1 cm. Sepal width: 2.3 mm. Texture: Upper surface (inside): Moderate soft, short glandular hairs. Gland color: Translucent. Color: 144A. Sepal color: 144A at apex, 185A at base.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen number: 9 per flower. Filament color: N155B. Anther shape: Oval. Anther length: Approximately 2 mm. Mature anther color: 186A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color 168A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: One per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 8.9 mm. Stigma shape: 5 pointed star. Stigma length: 1.5 mm. Stigma color: 187C. Style length: 2.8 mm. Style color: 187D. Ovary length: 4.6 mm. Ovary texture: Sericeous. Ovary color: 143C.

Seed and fruit production: Neither seed nor fruit production has been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *geraniums* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named ‘Balshorofla’, substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

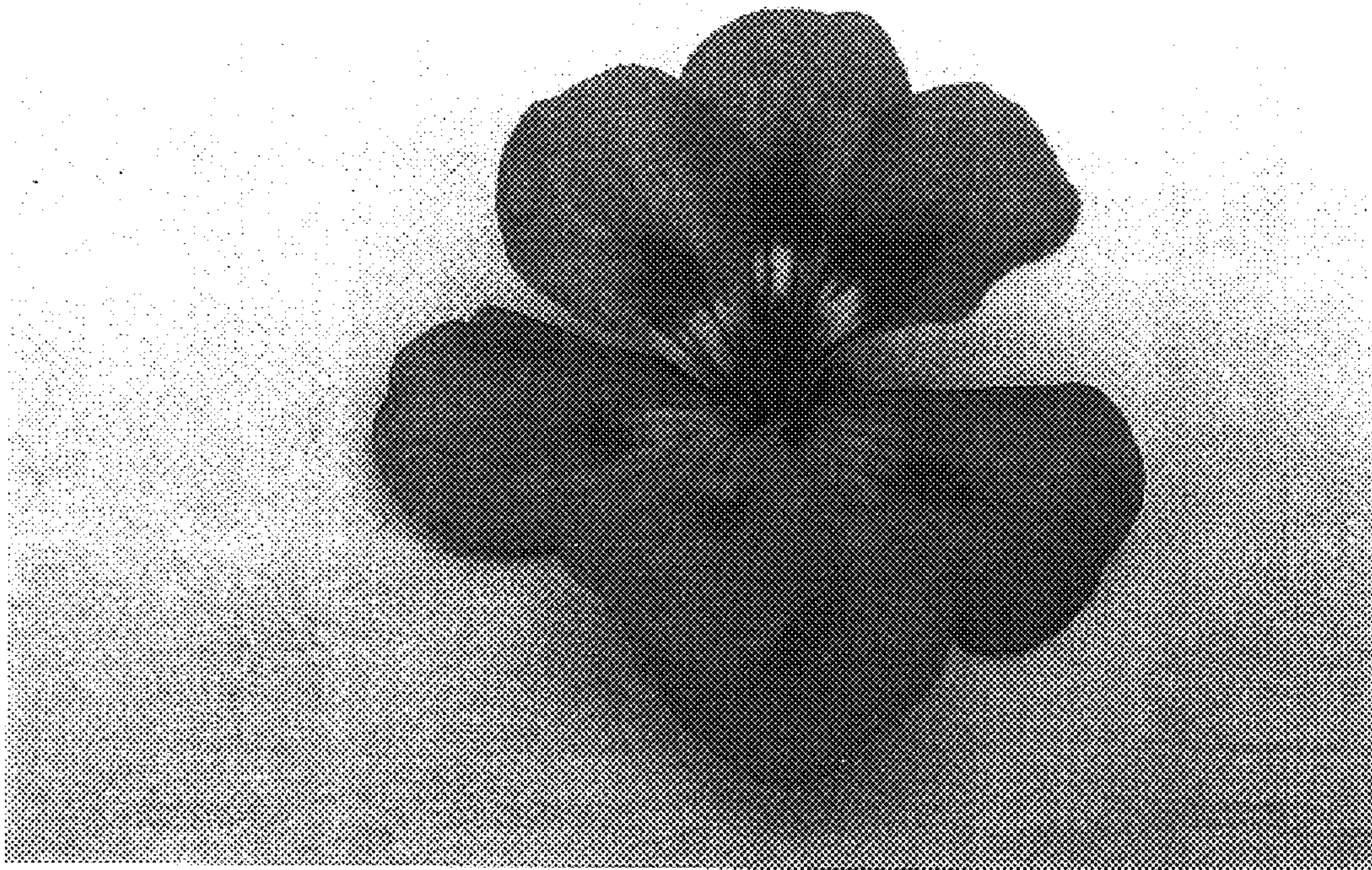


FIG. 2