



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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP16,751 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 4, 2006**

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

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

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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 52 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/073,488**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 5, 2005**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./327**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./327**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Zonal *Geranium* plant named ‘Paclai’, characterized by its upright, rounded and compact plant habit; freely basal branching and flowering habit; salmon pink-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Pelargonium×hortorum*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘Paclai’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

The new Zonal *Geranium* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Dresden, Germany. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new Zonal *Geraniums* that have attractive salmon pink-colored flowers.

The new Zonal *Geranium* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor during the summer of 1999 of two proprietary selections of *Pelargonium×hortorum*, not patented. The cultivar Paclai was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny from the stated cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Dresden, Germany in June, 2000.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Dresden, Germany since December, 2000 has shown that the unique features of this new Zonal *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 ‘Paclai’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Paclai’ as a new cultivar and distinguish it from other known Zonal *Geranium* cultivars:

1. Upright, rounded and compact plant habit.
2. Freely basal branching and flowering habit.
3. Leaves with a distinct zonation pattern.
4. Salmon pink-colored flowers.
5. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in flower coloration.

Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* can be compared to plants of the cultivar Evening Glow, disclosed in U.S. Plant

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Pat. No. 9,167. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Dresden, Germany, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differed from plants of the cultivar Evening Glow in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* were larger than plants of the cultivar Evening Glow.
2. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had smaller leaves and shorter petioles than plants of the cultivar Evening Glow.
3. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* were more freely flowering than plants of the cultivar Evening Glow.
4. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Evening Glow.
5. Flower color of plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* was lighter than flower color of plants of the cultivar Evening Glow.

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. 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 Zonal *Geranium*. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Paclai’ grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants of the cultivar Paclai have 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 photograph, following observations and averaged measurements describe plants grown during the summer in containers in Dresden, Germany, and under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 18° C., night temperatures about 16° C. and light levels ranging from 15 to 100 kilolux. Plants used for the photograph and the description were about nine months old. 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×hortorum* cultivar Paclai.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Pelargonium×hortorum*, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Pelargonium×hortorum*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 18 days at 22° C. Winter: About 22 days at 22° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant.—Summer: About 25 days at 22° C. Winter: About 30 days at 22° C.

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; white in color.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching, dense.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Upright, rounded and compact plant habit; uniform; densely foliated.

Growth and branching habit.—Moderately vigorous growth habit. Freely basal branching habit with about 10 to 12 lateral branches per plant; pinching is not required.

Plant height, to top of umbels.—About 30 cm.

Plant height, to top of foliar plane.—About 15 cm.

Plant width.—About 40 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10 to 15 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Internode length: About 1 to 3 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate or opposite; simple. Length: About 3 to 4 cm. Width: About 6 to 7 cm. Shape: Reniform. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate; open. Margin: Crenate. Venation pattern: Palmate. Texture, upper surface: Smooth, glabrous; rough; leathery. Texture, lower surface: Pubescence on the veins; rough; leathery. Color: Developing foliage, upper surface: 146A. Developing foliage, lower surface: 147B. Fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 137A. Fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 147B; venation, 146C. Zonation pattern: Intensity: Intense. Location of zone from margin: About 5 mm. Width: About 1.5 to 2.5 cm. Color: 147A. Petiole: Length: About 2.5 to 4 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent; rough. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 146B.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement.—Salmon pink-colored flowers; semi-double rotate flowers arranged in rounded hemispherical umbels arising from apical leaf axils. Umbels displayed above the foliage on strong peduncles. Flowers face upright to outward; flowers slightly cupped. Flowers persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering habit; about 15 umbels per plant, about 25 flower buds and open flowers per umbel.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In the garden in Dresden, Germany, flowering is continuous from April until frost in the fall.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about six to ten days and umbels last about three to four weeks on the plant.

Umbel height.—About 7 cm.

Umbel diameter.—About 10 to 11 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 5 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 2 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Elliptic. Color: 144B.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: About six to eight. Length: About 2 cm. Width: About 2.5 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; velvety. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 41C; towards the margin, 49B; towards the base, close to 155D; becoming closer to 52C with development; venation, 41B. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 52D; towards the base, close to 155D; venation, similar to petal.

Petaloids.—Quantity per flower: None to about two. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 5 mm. Shape: Irregular in shape. Apex: Acute to rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous; crinkled. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 41C; towards the base, close to 155D; venation, 41B; color becoming closer to 52C with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 52D; towards the base, close to 155D; venation, similar to petaloid.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Five, arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 7 mm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144C.

Peduncle (umbel stem).—Length: About 7 to 10 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Strength: Strong. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Color: 146B.

Pedice (individual flower stem).—Length: About 3 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 145A.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity per flower: About eight. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther color: Brown. Pollen amount: Scarce. Pollen color: Golden brown. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 8 mm. Stigma shape: Five to six-parted. Stigma color: Purple. Style length: About 3 to 4 mm. Style color: Purple. Ovary color: Close to 144A.

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

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Zonal Geranium* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to *Zonal Geraniums*.

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Zonal Geranium* have been observed to tolerate rain, wind, and temperatures ranging from −0.5 to 40° C. and have demonstrated good garden performance.

It is claimed:

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

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