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Dümmen

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

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

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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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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./330**
(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./330
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

UPOV ROM PBR 20051169, filed Jun. 23, 2005, published Aug. 15, 2005 in the European Community.*

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Zonal *Geranium* plant named 'Duefuerto', characterized by its compact and upright plant habit; freely basal branching habit; dark green-colored leaves; freely flowering habit; semi-double dark red-colored flowers; and good garden performance.

1 Drawing Sheet

Botanical designation: *Pelargonium×hortorum*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Duefuerto'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

The new Zonal *Geranium* is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Rheinberg, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to create new uniform Zonal *Geranium* cultivars with numerous and attractive flowers.

The new Zonal *Geranium* originated from an open-pollination made by the Inventor in August, 1998 in Rheinberg, Germany of a proprietary selection of *Pelargonium×hortorum* identified as code number F-12-01, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Pelargonium×hortorum* as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Duefuerto was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany in May, 2004.

Asexual reproduction of the new Zonal *Geranium* by vegetative terminal cuttings in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany since July, 2004, has shown that the unique features of this new Zonal *Geranium* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The cultivar Duefuerto has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature, daylength and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

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

1. Compact and upright plant habit.
2. Freely basal branching habit.
3. Dark green-colored leaves.
4. Freely flowering habit.
5. Semi-double dark red-colored flowers.
6. Good garden performance.

Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differ from plants of the female parent selection in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* are more vigorous than plants of the female parent selection.
2. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* have darker red-colored flowers than plants of the female parent selection.

Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* can be compared to plants of the *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar HWD Fuega, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 9,731. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differed from plants of the cultivar HWD Fuega in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had smaller leaves than plants of the cultivar HWD Fuega.
2. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had shorter peduncles than plants of the cultivar HWD Fuega.
3. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had darker red-colored flowers than plants of the cultivar HWD Fuega.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new Zonal *Geranium*, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. 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 'Duefuerto' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Rheinberg, Germany in a glass-covered greenhouse during the summer and under conditions which closely approximate commercial production. During the production of the plants, day and night temperatures averaged 18° C. and light levels averaged 4,500 lux. Plants were about two months from planting when the photographs and the description were taken. In the detailed description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium×hortorum* cultivar Duefuerto.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Proprietary selection of *Pelargonium×hortorum* identified as code number F-12-01, not patented.

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

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About five days at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About seven days at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.—About three weeks at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, winter.—About four weeks at temperatures of 20° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Compact and upright plant habit; uniformly rounded; densely foliated.

Growth and branching habit.—Moderately vigorous growth habit. Freely basal branching habit with about three lateral branches developing per plant.

Plant height, to top of foliar plane.—About 16 cm.

Plant height, to top of umbels.—About 22 cm.

Plant width.—About 22 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 6 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 5 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Texture: Slightly pubescent. Strength: Strong. Color: 144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate; simple.

Length.—About 6.7 cm.

Width.—About 8.8 cm.

Shape.—Reniform.

Apex.—Rounded.

Base.—Cordate.

Margin.—Crenate.

Venation pattern.—Palmate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Pubescent.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137A; venation, 144A. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 137B; venation, 144A. Zonation pattern: Not observed.

Petiole.—Length: About 8.4 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement.—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 persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering habit; about 20 flowers per umbel.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions. In Germany, flowering is continuous from spring throughout the summer.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about five to seven days on the plant.

Umbel height.—About 6 cm.

Umbel diameter.—About 10 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 5.5 cm.

Flower depth (*height*).—About 1.8 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 7.5 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 45A.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: About six. Length: About 2.6 cm. Width: About 1.7 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Sinuate. Aspect: Mostly flat. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 45B; venation similar to lamina. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 45C; venation similar to lamina.

Petaloids.—Quantity per flower: About two. Length: About 2.2 cm. Width: About 3.5 mm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Sinuate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 45B; venation similar to lamina. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 45C; venation similar to lamina.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Five, arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1.2 cm. Width: About 2.2 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Apiculate. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Peduncle (*umbel stem*).—Length: About 10.1 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm to 4 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A.

Pedicel (*individual flower stem*).—Length: About 3.1 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm to 2 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 59B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity per flower: About seven. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther shape: Oval. Anther color: 45D. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 28A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 9 mm. Stigma shape: Parted. Stigma size: About 2 mm. Stigma color: 53A. Style length: About 6 mm. Style color: 53A. Ovary color: Close to 145D.

Seed/fruit.—Seed and fruit development have 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 about 5° C. to about 40° C. and have demonstrated good garden performance.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Zonal *Geranium* plant named 'Duefuerto' as illustrated and described.

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