

[54] GERANIUM PLANT NAMED PRAELUDIUM
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[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct geranium plant known by the culti-
 var name Praeludium is characterized by an intensive-
 red colored flower, a semi-double flower form, a dark
 green foliage with a slight zonation, a robust foliage, a
 large umbel, and a good rooting pattern.

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention comprises a new and distinct
 cultivar of geranium, botanically known as *Pelargonium*
zonale, hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
 Praeludium. 5

Praeludium is a product of a planned breeding pro-
 gram which had the objective of creating new geranium
 cultivars with an intensive-red colored flower, large
 umbel, and robust and dark green foliage with a slight
 zonation. 10

Praeludium was originated from a hybridization
 made in a controlled breeding program in Rheinberg,
 FRG, in 1982-83. The female parent was an unnamed
 seedling. The male parent of Praeludium was also an
 unnamed seedling. 15

Praeludium was discovered and selected as one flow-
 ering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by
 Guenter Duemmen in 1984 in a controlled environment
 in Rheinberg. 20

The first act of asexual reproduction of Praeludium
 was accomplished when vegetative cuttings were taken
 from the initial selection in July 1984 in a controlled
 environment in Rheinberg by a technician working
 under formulations established and supervised by
 Guenter Duemmen. Horticultural examination of
 selected units initiated in July 1984 has demonstrated
 that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed
 for Praeludium are firmly fixed and are retained
 through successive generations of asexual reproduction. 30

Praeludium has not been observed under all possible
 environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
 significantly with variations in environment such as
 temperature, light intensity, and day length. The fol-
 lowing observations, measurements, and comparisons
 describe plants grown in Rheinberg under greenhouse
 conditions which approximate those generally used in
 commercial practice. 35

The following traits have been repeatedly observed
 and are determined to be basic characteristics of Prae-
 ludium which in combination distinguish this geranium
 as a new and distinct cultivar: 40

1. Intensive-red colored flower;
2. Semi-double flower form;
3. Dark green foliage with a slight zonation;
4. Robust foliage;
5. Large umbel;

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6. Good rooting pattern.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the pres-
 ent inventors, the most similar in comparison to Prae-
 ludium is Alex. In comparison to Alex, Praeludium has
 a larger umbel, a higher peduncle, slight zonation of the
 foliage.

The accompanying photographic drawing shows
 typical flower and foliage characteristics of Prae-
 ludium, with colors being as true as possible with illus-
 trations of this type.

In the following description color references are
 made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.
 The color values were determined between 10:00-11:30
 a.m. on Sept. 3, 1986 under natural light at Rheinberg in
 a room with orientation to the north.

Classification:

Botanical.—*Pelargonium zonale* cv Praeludium.
Commercial.—Geranium.

Inflorescence

- A. Umbel:
 - Average diameter.*—10 to 12 cm.
 - Average depth.*—6 to 7 cm.
 - Peduncle length.*—8 to 10 cm.
 - Pedicle length.*—2.5 to 3 cm.
- B. Corolla:
 - Average diameter.*—5 to 6 cm.
 - Form.*—Semi-double.
 - Color (general tonality from a distance of three me-
 ters).*—ca. RHS 40 A to 44 B.
 - Color (abaxial).*—ca. RHS 40 A to 44 B.
 - Color (adaxial).*—ca. RHS 41 A to 43 B.
- C. Bud:
 - Shape.*—Elliptic.
 - Color (abaxial).*—ca. RHS 40 A.
 - Color (adaxial).*—ca. RHS 40 A.
- D. Reproductive organs:
 - Androecium.*—Obdiplostemon, centrifugal dedou-
 plement, fertil.
 - Gynoecium.*—5-lobed stigma, pubescent, 5 carpels,
 coenocarp hypogyn.
- E. Spring flowering response period:
 - FRG.*—50% of plants with at least one flower open
 16 weeks after stick of unrooted cuttings.
- F. Outdoor flower production: Good.
- G. Durability: Good.

Plant

A. Foliage:

Form.—Kidney shaped.

Margin.—Undulate, bicrenate.

Color (abaxial).—ca. RHS 136 B.

Color (adaxial).—ca. RHS 138 B to 136 C.

Color (zonation).—ca. RHS 136 A.

Tolerance of botrytis.—Good.

B. General appearance and form:

Internode length.—Normal.

Branching pattern.—Good.

Height.—Relatively tall.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of geranium known as
5 *Pelagonium zonale*, to be known by the cultivar name
Praeludium, as described and illustrated, and particu-
larly characterized by the combination of characteris-
tics of: an intensive-red colored flower; a semi-double
flower form; a dark green foliage with a slight zonation;
10 robust foliage; a large umbel; and a good rooting pat-
tern.

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U.S. Patent

Apr. 4, 1989

Plant 6,716

