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

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

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

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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 16 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/594,391**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 8, 2006**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./329**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./329**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP14,648 P2 * 3/2004 Trees Plt./329

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

UPOV ROM GTITM Computer Database, GTI Jouve
Retrieval Software 2007/02 Citation for 'Balfanimvio'.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named
'Balfanimvio', characterized by its semi-double type
medium violet-colored flowers, medium green-colored foli-
age with zonation, and vigorous, upright growth habit.

2 Drawing Sheets

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

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
'Balfanimvio'.

The new cultivar originated in a controlled breeding
program in Arroyo Grande, Calif. during February 2003.
The objective of the breeding program was the development
of *Geranium* cultivars that flower uniformly and have large
flowers, dark green-colored foliage, and a moderately
vigorous, upright growth habit.

The new *Geranium* cultivar is the result of cross-
pollination. The female (seed) parent of the new cultivar is
the proprietary *Pelargonium×hortorum* breeding selection
designated 3040-2, not patented, characterized by its semi-
double type dark violet-colored flowers, dark green-colored
foliage with zonation, and upright growth habit. The male
(pollen) parent of the new cultivar is the proprietary
Pelargonium×hortorum breeding selection designated BFP-
3658, not patented, characterized by its semi-double type
dark purple-violet-colored flowers, medium green-colored
foliage, and upright growth habit. The new cultivar was
discovered and selected as a single flowering plant within
the progeny of the above stated cross-pollination during
May 2004 in a controlled environment at Arroyo Grande,
Calif.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since May 2004 at Arroyo Grande, Calif. and West
Chicago, Ill. has demonstrated that the new cultivar repro-
duces true to type with all of the characteristics, as herein

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described, firmly fixed and retained through successive
generations of such asexual propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
'Balfanimvio' as a new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium*
plant:

- 10 1. Semi-double type medium violet-colored flowers;
- 2. Medium green-colored foliage with zonation; and
- 3. Vigorous, upright growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the female
parent primarily in flower color and foliage color and from
plants of the male parent primarily in flower color.

15 Of the many commercially available *Geranium* cultivars
known to the inventor, the most similar in comparison to the
new cultivar is Fantasia® Violet 'Balfanvio', U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 14,648. However, in side by side comparisons, plants of
the new cultivar differ from plants of 'Balfanvio' in the
following characteristics:

- 20 1. Plants of the new cultivar have a flower color different
from plants of 'Balfanvio'; and
- 25 2. Plants of the new cultivar are taller and wider than
plants of 'Balfanvio'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

30 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 'Balfanimvio'. The plants
were grown in 4.5 inch pots for 7 weeks in a greenhouse at
West Chicago, Ill.

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of the overall growth and flowering habit of 'Balfaninvio'.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of an individual umbel of 'Balfaninvio'.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of an individual flower of 'Balfaninvio'.

FIG. 4 illustrates a close-up view of an individual leaf of 'Balfaninvio'.

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. Color 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. 18, 2006 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 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 glass-covered greenhouse under conditions comparable to those used in commercial practice. The plants were grown at West Chicago, Ill. in 4.5 inch pots for 7 weeks utilizing a soilless growth medium. Greenhouse temperatures were maintained at approximately 70° F. to 77° F. (21° C. to 25° C.) during the day and approximately 65° F. to 68° F. (18° C. to 20° C.) during the night. Greenhouse light levels of 2,500 footcandles to 6,000 footcandles were maintained during the day.

Botanical classification: *Pelargonium xhortorum* cultivar Balfaninvio.

Parentage:

Female parent.—*Pelargonium xhortorum* breeding selection designated 3040-2, not patented.

Male parent.—*Pelargonium xhortorum* breeding selection designated BFP-3658, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal stem.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 9 to 13 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 18 to 20 days.

Root description.—Fibrous.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 8 to 9 weeks from a rooted cutting.

Growth habit and general appearance.—Vigorous, upright.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 21.1 cm. Height from soil level to top of foliage: Approximately 11.0 cm. Width: Approximately 22.8 cm.

Branching habit.—Freely basal branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 2.

Branch.—Strength. Strong. Length: Approximately 4.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 7.0 mm. Length of central internode: Approximately 8.6 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of

colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Color of young and mature stems: 144A.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per lateral branch: Approximately 9. Fragrance: None. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Opposite.

Leaves.—Aspect: Petiole is at an acute angle to stem and blade is perpendicular to stem. Shape: Reniform. Margin: Crenate, palmately lobed. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Cordate. Venation Pattern: Palmate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 5.2 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 8.7 cm. Texture of upper surface: Pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Texture of lower surface: Pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs, dense on venation. Gland color: Colorless, transparent. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 137A with venation of 137A. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 146A with venation of 147C. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: 137B with a very weak zone of 147A and venation of 137B. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 147B with venation of 147C.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 5.8 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Color: 144A.

Flowering description:

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

Lastingness of individual flower on the plant.—Approximately 13 to 15 days.

Inflorescence description:

General description.—Type: Umbel. Positioned above foliage. Quantity of fully open umbels per plant: Approximately 1. Quantity of developing umbels per plant: Approximately 2. Fragrance: None. Length or height: Approximately 6.5 cm. Width: Approximately 10.1 cm. Quantity of fully open flowers per inflorescence: Approximately 12.

Peduncle.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Erect. Length: Approximately 14.1 cm. Diameter: Approximately 3.5 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Color: 144A with an overlay of 187C.

Flower description:

General description.—Type: Semi-double.

Bud.—Rate of opening: Generally takes 4 to 6 days for bud to progress from first color to fully open flower.

Bud just before opening.—Shape: Elliptic. Length: Approximately 1.7 cm. Width: Approximately 9.5 mm. Sepal texture: Densely glandular pubescent. Gland color: Mixture of colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Petal texture: Glabrous. Petals color: 45B.

Corolla.—Shape: Round. Diameter: Approximately 4.9 cm. Depth: Approximately 1.9 cm.

Petals.—Quantity: Approximately 6 petals and 1 irregularly-shaped petaloid per flower. Shape: Obovate. Appearance: Velvety, iridescent. Margin: Entire. Apex: Obtuse. Base: Attenuate. Length of upper petals: Approximately 2.9 cm. Width of upper

petals: Approximately 1.8 cm. Length of lower petals: Approximately 2.6 cm. Width of lower petals: Approximately 2.0 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Glabrous. Color of upper surface of upper petals when fully open: 45B at margin transitioning to N57A toward center with an overlay of 40A from center to base and venation of 46A. Color of lower surface of upper petals when fully open: N57A at margin fading to N57C toward base with an overlay at base of 40B. Color of upper surface of flower petals when fully open: N57A with margin of 45B and venation at base of 46A. Color of lower surface of lower petals when fully open: N57A with margin of 45B and venation of 187D.

Calyx.—Shape: 5-pointed star. Diameter: Approximately 2.2 cm.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Approximately 5. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Fused. Length of upper sepal: Approximately 1.2 cm. Width of upper sepal: Approximately 4.9 mm. Length of lower sepals: Approximately 1.1 cm. Width of lower sepals: Approximately 3.0 mm. Texture of upper surface: Glabrous. Texture of lower surface: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Color of upper surface: 144A. Color of lower surface: 144A with an overlay of 187C.

Pedicel.—Strength: Strong. Aspect: Acute angle to stem. Length: Approximately 2.9 cm. Diameter: Approximately 1.4 mm. Texture: Densely pubescent with a mixture of glandular and nonglandular hairs. Gland color: Mixture of colorless, transparent; and 29C, transparent. Color: 146A with an overlay of 187C.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Quantity of mature stamens: Approximately 9 per flower. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Anther color: 72A. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: N30A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity: 1 per flower. Pistil length: Approximately 8.0 mm. Stigma shape: 5 branched. Stigma length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Stigma color: 47D. Style length: Approximately 2.0 mm. Style color: Lighter than 153D. Ovary length: Approximately 4.0 mm. Ovary texture: Densely pubescent. Ovary color: 144C.

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

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

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Geranium* plant named 'Balfanimvio', substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

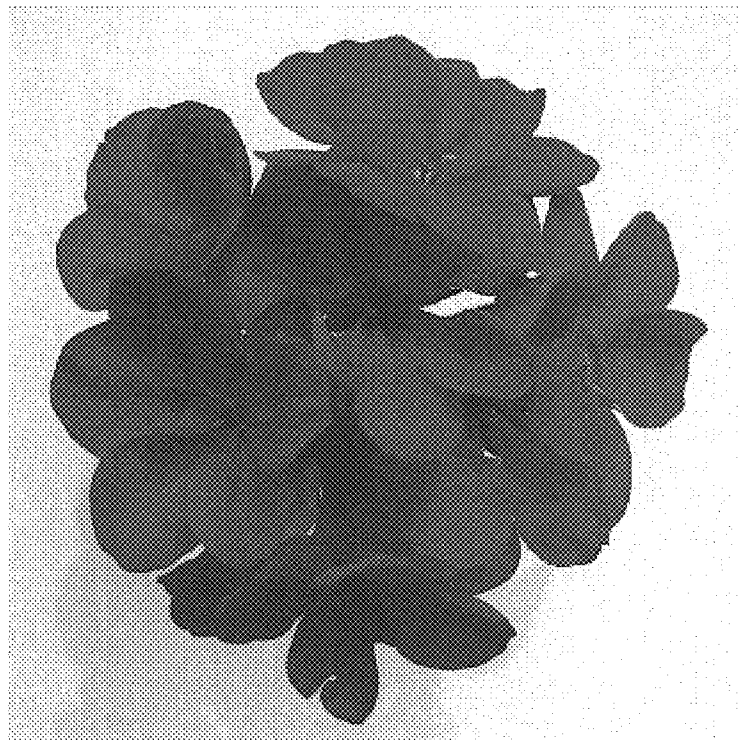


FIG. 2

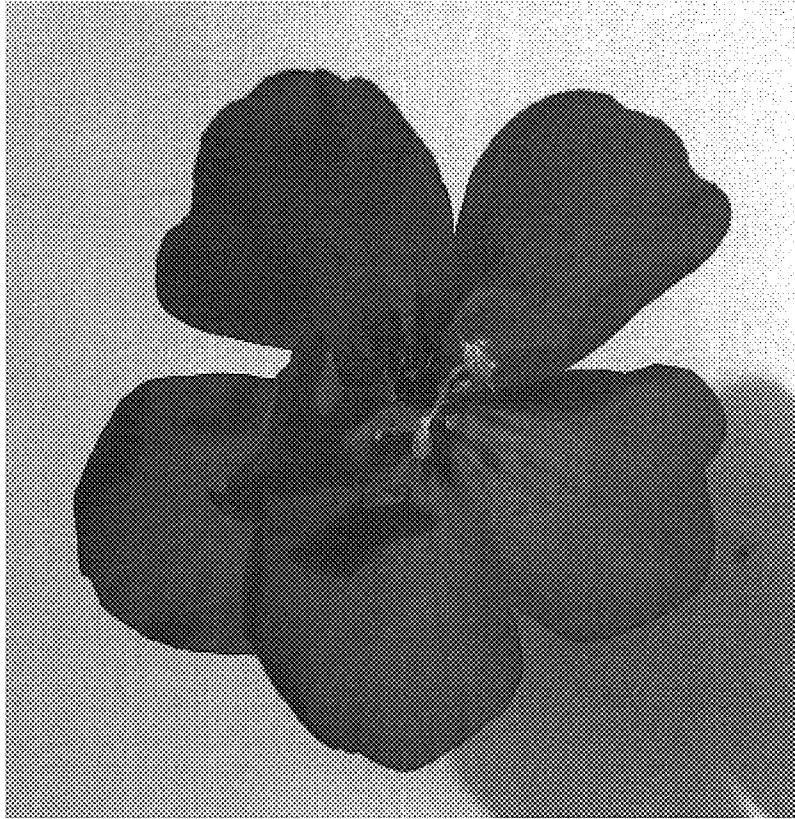


FIG. 3

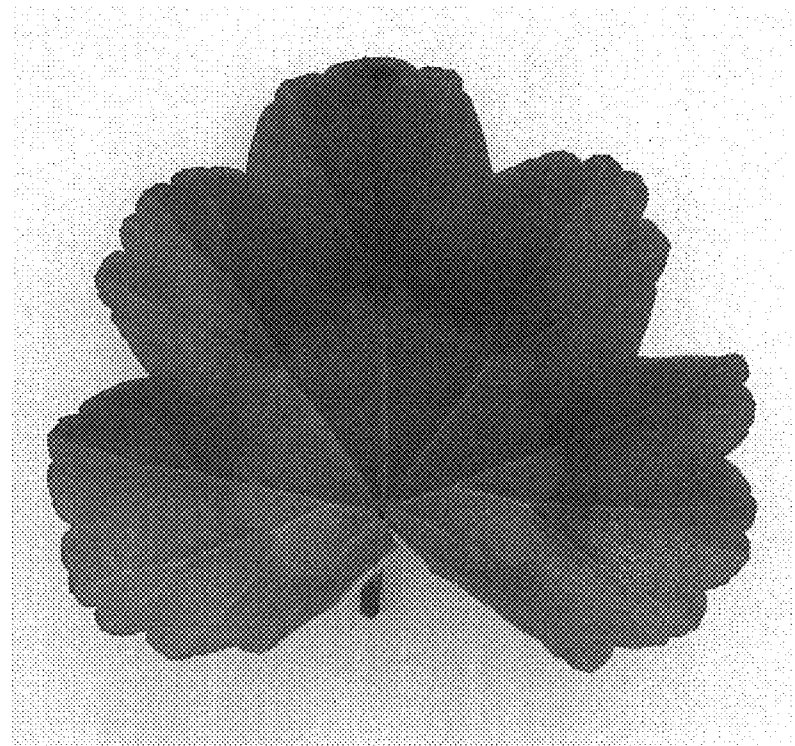


FIG. 4