



US00PP20909P2

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP20,909 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Mar. 30, 2010**

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

(50) Latin Name: *Pelargonium grandiflorum*
Varietal Denomination: **Regpet**

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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.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/291,551**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 12, 2008**

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./331**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./331**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Regal *Geranium* plant named 'Regpet', characterized by its upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely basal branching habit; early and freely flowering habit; white and purple bi-colored flowers; and no requirement for cooling treatment for flower development.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Botanical designation: *Pelargonium grandiflorum*.
Cultivar denomination: 'Regpet'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Regal *Geranium* plant, botanically known as *Pelargonium grandiflorum*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Regpet'.

The new Regal *Geranium* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Dresden, Germany. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new Regal *Geraniums* that do not require a cooling treatment for early flower development.

The new Regal *Geranium* plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in Dresden, Germany during the summer of 2004 of two unnamed proprietary selections of *Pelargonium grandiflorum*, not patented. The new Regal *Geranium* was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from within the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Dresden, Germany during the spring of 2005.

Asexual reproduction of the new Regal *Geranium* plant by vegetative terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Dresden, Germany since October, 2005, has shown that the unique features of this new Regal *Geranium* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and cultural practices such as temperature 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 'Regpet'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Regpet' as a new and distinct cultivar of Regal *Geranium*:

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1. Upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely basal branching habit.
4. Early and freely flowering habit.
5. White and purple bi-colored flowers.
6. Does not require cooling treatment for flower development.

Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in flower coloration. In addition, plants of the new Regal *Geranium* are more uniform than plants of the parent selections.

Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* can be compared to plants of the *Pelargonium grandiflorum* 'Clara Schuhmann', not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Dresden, Germany, plants of the new Regal *Geranium* differed from plants of 'Clara Schuhmann' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* were more vigorous than plants of 'Clara Schuhmann'.
2. Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* had shorter pedicels than plants of 'Clara Schuhmann'.
3. Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* and 'Clara Schuhmann' differed in flower color as plants of 'Clara Schuhmann' had lower petals with purple-colored markings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new Regal *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 Regal *Geranium*.

The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Regpet' grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown in Dresden, Germany in a glass-covered greenhouse during the winter and spring and under conditions which closely approximate commercial Regal *Geranium* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 18° C., night temperatures averaged 16° C. and light levels ranged from 15 kilolux to 100 kilolux. Plants were six months from planting when the photograph and the description were taken. In the detailed 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 grandiflorum* 'Reg-pet'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Pelargonium grandiflorum*, not patented.

Male or pollen parent.—Unnamed proprietary selection of *Pelargonium grandiflorum*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By vegetative terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer.—About 18 days at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to initiate roots, winter.—About 22 days at temperatures of 20° C.

Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer and winter.—About 30 days at temperatures of 20° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant/growth habit.—Upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and mounded plant habit; inverted triangle; densely foliated. Vigorous growth habit. Freely basal branching habit with about seven lateral branches developing per plant.

Plant height, to top of umbels.—About 33 cm.

Plant height, to top of leaves.—About 25 cm.

Plant width.—About 35 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 10 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm to 2 cm. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Alternate or opposite; simple.

Length.—About 5 cm.

Width.—About 7 cm.

Shape.—Cordate; palmately lobed.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Cordate, open.

Margin.—Serrate to biserrate.

Venation pattern.—Palmate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Sparsely pubescent; leathery.

Color.—Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: Close to 137C; venation, close to 137C. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: Close to 146B; venation, close to 144B. Zonation pattern: Not discernible. Petiole: Length: About 4 cm. Diameter: About 3 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Slightly pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement.—Single rotate flowers arranged in inversely conical umbels arising from apical leaf axils. Umbels displayed above the foliage on strong peduncles. Flowers face upright to outward.

Fragrance.—Not detected.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering habit; about four to six flowers per umbel.

Flowering season.—In Dresden, Germany, flowering initiates in the spring and continues into the summer.

Plants do not require a cooling treatment for flower development.

Flower longevity.—Individual flowers last about two weeks on the plant; flowers not persistent.

Umbel height.—About 6 cm.

Umbel diameter.—About 10 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 6 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 2 cm to 3 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.5 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Shape: Roughly elliptical. Color: Close to 146B.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: Five or six; petals imbricate. Length, upper and lower petals: About 3 cm. Width, upper petals: About 3 cm. Width, lower petals: About 2 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cuneate to attenuate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; satiny. Color, upper petals: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Central markings, close to 187A surrounded with close to 70A; towards the margin, close to 155D; venation, close to 70A. Color becoming closer to 70D with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 70A; towards the margin, close to 155D; venation, close to 70A. Color, lower petals: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: Close to 155D; venation, close to 155D. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: Close to 155D; venation, close to 155D.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: Five to six, arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1.5 cm. Width: About 4 mm. Shape: Lanceolate. Apex: Acute. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Pubescent. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 146B.

Peduncle (umbel stem).—Length: About 5 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong. Angle: Mostly erect to slightly outwardly slanted. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146A.

Pedicle (individual flower stem).—Length: About 2 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Strong; flexible. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Close to 146B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Stamen quantity per flower: About eight. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther shape: Tubular. Anther color: Close to 72A. Pollen amount: Abundant. Pollen color: Close to 171A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1.7 cm. Stigma shape: Five-parted. Stigma color: Close to 59A. Style length: About 9 mm. Style color: Close to 61C. Ovary color: Close to 147C. Seeds: Length: About 2 mm to 3 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Shape: Elliptical. Color: Close to 200A.

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

Temperature tolerance. Plants of the new Regal *Geranium* have been observed to tolerate temperatures ranging from about 1° C. to about 35° C. to 40° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct Regal *Geranium* plant named 'Reg-pet' as illustrated and described.

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