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Dümmen

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./325**

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

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./325,
Plt./328, 329

See application file for complete search history.

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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.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of Zonal *Geranium* plant named ‘Dueceline’, characterized by its upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and rounded plant habit; freely branching habit; freely and early flowering habit; and dark pink-colored single flowers with red-colored spots.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/171,890**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 30, 2005**

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

1 Drawing Sheet

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

4. Dark pink-colored single flowers with red-colored spots.

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 ‘Dueceline’.

Compared to plants of the female parent selection, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* are more compact. In addition, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* and the female parent selection differ in flower coloration. Compared to plants of the male parent selection, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differ in flower color. In addition, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* are stronger than plants of the male parent selection.

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 was to develop new freely and early flowering Zonal *Geraniums* with attractive flower and foliage colors.

The new Zonal *Geranium* can be compared to plants of the cultivar Gentana, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* differed from plants of the cultivar Gentana in the following characteristics:

The new Zonal *Geranium* originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in May, 1998, of a proprietary selection of *Pelargonium*×*hortorum* identified as code number F-21-19, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of *Pelargonium*×*hortorum* identified as code number F-01-10, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The cultivar Dueceline was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny from this cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Rheinberg, Germany in May, 2003.

1. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had larger leaves and shorter leaf petioles than plants of the cultivar Gentana.
2. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had larger umbels and larger flowers than plants of the cultivar Gentana.
3. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* had more flowers per umbel than plants of the cultivar Gentana.
4. Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* and the cultivar Gentana differed in flower color as plants of the cultivar Gentana did not have red-colored spots.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal vegetative cuttings at Rheinberg, Germany since May, 2003, has shown that the unique features of this new Zonal *Geranium* are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Dueceline’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Dueceline’ as a new cultivar and distinguish it from other known Zonal *Geranium* cultivars:

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 ‘Dueceline’ grown in a container.

1. Upright, outwardly spreading and rounded plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Freely and early flowering habit.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The cultivar Dueceline has 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 measurements describe plants grown in Rheinberg, Germany during the summer under commercial practice in a glass-covered greenhouse with day and night temperatures about 18° C. and light levels about 4,500 foot-candles. Plants were grown in 10.5-cm containers. Plants were pinched once about three weeks after planting. Plants were about eight weeks from unrooted cuttings when the photograph and the detailed botanical description were taken.

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 x hortorum* cultivar Dueceline.

Parentage:

Female parent.—Proprietary selection of *Pelargonium x hortorum* identified as F-21-19, not patented.

Male parent.—Proprietary selection of *Pelargonium x hortorum* identified as F-01-10, not patented.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Terminal vegetative cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—Summer: About 5 days at 20° C. Winter: About 7 days at 20° C.

Time to develop roots.—Summer: About three weeks at 20° C. Winter: About four weeks at 20° C.

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

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

General appearance.—Upright, somewhat outwardly spreading and rounded plant habit; densely foliated.

Growth and branching habit.—Moderately vigorous. Freely branching, about three lateral branches per plant.

Plant height.—About 20 cm.

Plant width.—About 23 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 5.5 cm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: 144A.

Foliage description.—Arrangement: Alternate, single. Length: About 6 cm. Width: About 7.7 cm. Shape: Reniform. Apex: Rounded. Base: Cordate. Margin: Crenate. Venation pattern: Palmate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper surface: 137B. Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower surface: 138B. Venation, upper surface: 138B. Venation, lower surface: 144B. Zonation pattern: Not observed. Petiole: Length: About 5.4 cm. Diameter: About 2.5 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Flower description:

Flower arrangement.—Dark pink-colored single flowers with red-colored spots arranged in rounded hemispherical umbels arising from apical leaf axils.

Umbels displayed above and beyond the foliage on peduncles. Flowers rounded in form. Umbels persistent, flowers not persistent. Flowers not fragrant.

Quantity of flowers.—Freely flowering; at full flower, plants have about eight flower umbels with about 25 to 30 flowers per umbel.

Flowering season.—Flowering continuous spring until the autumn. Plants begin flowering about eight weeks after planting.

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

Umbel size.—Diameter: About 10 cm. Height: About 6.5 cm.

Flower size.—Diameter: About 4.5 cm. Depth (height): About 1.8 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1.2 cm. Diameter: About 6 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: 144A.

Petals.—Quantity per flower: About five or six. Length: About 2.8 cm. Width: About 1.9 cm. Shape: Obovate. Apex: Rounded. Base: Attenuate. Margin: Entire; sinuate. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth. Color: When opening and fully opened, upper surface: 68B; spots, 46C; towards the base, close to 69B to 69C; main color becoming closer to 68C with development. When opening and fully opened, lower surface: 68B to 68C.

Sepals.—Quantity per flower: About five arranged in a single whorl. Length: About 1 cm. Width: About 3.4 mm. Shape: Elongated, tapering. Apex: Apiculate. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth; glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: 144A.

Peduncle (umbel stem).—Length: About 12.8 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 cm. Angle: Mostly erect. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth; glabrous. Color: 144A.

Pedicel (individual flower stem).—Length: About 4.3 cm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Angle: Mostly erect. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Pubescent. Color: 144A overlain with 59B.

Reproductive organs.—Androecium: Anther quantity per flower: About ten. Anther length: About 2 mm. Anther shape: Ovate. Anther color: 43C. Pollen amount: Moderate. Pollen color: 28A. Gynoecium: Pistil quantity per flower: One. Pistil length: About 1.2 cm. Stigma shape: Five-parted, star-shaped. Stigma color: 66C. Style length: About 3.5 mm. Style color: 67D. Ovary color: Close to 144A.

Seed/fruit.—Development of seeds and fruit 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*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new Zonal *Geranium* have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from 5 to 40° C.

It is claimed:

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

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