
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Zonal Geranium plant, botanically known as Pelargonium zonale, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Dueviscar’.

The new Zonal Geranium plant 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 vigorous Zonal Geranium plants with dark green-colored leaves and attractive flowers.

The new Zonal Geranium plant originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in July, 2005 in Rheinberg, Germany of a proprietary selection of Pelargonium zonale identified as code number F-10-21, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with a proprietary selection of Pelargonium zonale identified as code number Z98-2121-003, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent. The new Zonal Geranium plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single flowering plant from among the progeny of the stated cross-pollination in a controlled greenhouse environment in Rheinberg, Germany in May, 2008.

Asexual reproduction of the new Zonal Geranium plant by vegetative terminal cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Rheinberg, Germany since May, 2008, has shown that the unique features of this new Zonal Geranium plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new Zonal 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 ‘Dueviscar’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Dueviscar’ as a new and distinct cultivar of Zonal Geranium:

1. Upright to outwardly spreading plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely basal branching habit.
4. Dark green-colored leaves with a distinct zonation pattern.
5. Freely flowering habit.

Plants of the new Zonal Geranium differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in growth habit as plants of the new Zonal Geranium are more vigorous than plants of the parent selections.

Plants of the new Zonal Geranium can be compared to plants of Pelargonium zonale ‘Anthony’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,378. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Rheinberg, Germany, plants of the new Zonal Geranium differed from plants of ‘Anthony’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new Zonal Geranium were more vigorous than plants of ‘Anthony’.
2. Plants of the new Zonal Geranium had longer internodes than plants of ‘Anthony’.
3. Plants of the new Zonal Geranium had larger leaves than plants of ‘Anthony’.
4. Plants of the new Zonal Geranium had larger flower umbels than plants of ‘Anthony’.
5. Plants of the new Zonal Geranium were more freely flowering than plants of ‘Anthony’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying colored photograph illustrates the overall appearance of the new Zonal Geranium plant, 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 plant. The photograph comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of ‘Dueviscar’ grown in a container.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photograph and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in 10.5-cm containers 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 pinched one time three weeks after planting. Plants had been growing for 13 weeks 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 zonale ‘Dueviscar’.

Parentage:
Female, or seed parent—Proprietary selection of Pelargonium zonale identified as code number F-10-21, not patented.
Male or pollen parent—Proprietary selection of Pelargonium zonale identified as code number Z98-2121-003, 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.—Freyly branching.

Plant description:
General appearance.—Upright to outwardly spreading plant habit; uniformly rounded; densely foliated.

Growth and branching habit.—Vigorous growth habit; freely basal branching habit with about three basal branches developing per plant; pinching enhances lateral branch development.

Plant height to top of flower umbels.—About 25 cm.

Plant height to top of foliar plane.—About 21 cm.

Plant width.—About 23 cm.


Foliage description:
Arrangement.—Alternate; simple.

Length.—About 7.8 cm.

Width.—About 8.8 cm.

Shape.—Reniform.

 Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Cordate.

Margin.—Crenate.

Venation pattern.—Palmate.

Texture, upper surface.—Pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A; venation, close to 144A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A; venation, close to 144A.

Zone pattern.—Distinct. Distance from margin: About 6 mm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Color: Close to 147A.

Petiole.—Length: About 6.6 mm. Diameter: About 2.8 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 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 moderately strong peduncles; flowers face upright to outward.

Fragrance.—Not detected.

Quantity of flowers.—Freyly flowering habit; about 30 flowers and flower buds per umbel.

Flowering season.—Year-round under greenhouse conditions; in outdoor nurseries and gardens in Germany flowering is continuous from spring throughout the summer; plants begin flowering about eight weeks after planting.

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

Unbel height.—About 6 cm.

Unbel diameter.—About 10 cm.

Flower diameter.—About 4.5 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 1.9 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 5.3 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 44A and 144A.


Venation pattern.—Palmate.

Texture, upper surface.—Pubescent.

Texture, lower surface.—Smooth, glabrous.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 137B. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to 137A; venation, close to 144A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138A; venation, close to 144A.

Zone pattern.—Distinct. Distance from margin: About 6 mm. Width: About 1.5 cm. Color: Close to 147A.

Petiole.—Length: About 6.6 cm. Diameter: About 2.8 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144A.

Flower diameter.—About 4.5 cm.

Flower depth (height).—About 1.9 cm.

Flower buds.—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 5.3 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Color: Close to 44A and 144A.


Venation pattern.—Palmate.
Pedicel (individual flower stem).—Length: About 2.9 cm. Diameter: About 1.5 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color: Close to 146C.


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 'Du-viscar' as illustrated and described.