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V. G. LUCAS

Plant Pat. 81

PLANT

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

81

PLANT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 47—59)

My invention or discovery relates to improve-
ments in peach trees or plants of an improved
variety, the tree or plant of which will bear more
certainly, and is not subject to delayed foliation,
and the fruit of which will keep better in cold
storage.
This plant originated in a grove of budded
Lovell peach trees, planted several years ago.
The original seedlings were budded with buds
taken from Lovell peach trees. These grew to
maturity and the major part of the grove remains.
This particular tree died as a result of disease
or injury, but the roots of the original seedling
lived and a sprout or shoot was discovered grow-
ing from this original seedling at a point about
level with the surface of the soil, or where the
roots unite to form the head. The upper part
of the tree, that is, that which had been budded
into the seedling, was dead. This shoot was al-
lowed to remain and by the fall of 1930 had grown
into a small tree with a trunk having a diameter
of about two and one-half inches. The crop of
fruit beginning to ripen on this tree was of a
good quality, and indicated a highly desirable new
variety. This peach is of the red freestone type,
nearly round, with a yellowish skin, in which
red predominates as it ripens. The suture is
shallow, and the tip at the apex is small and
sometimes hardly noticeable. The flesh is firm
and has a dark red center, with deep indentations
in the pit, and the fruit has exceptionally good
keeping qualities. This peach is a late ripening
variety.
A distinguishing characteristic of this plant or
tree is that it is not subject to delayed foliation.
This has been particularly demonstrated this
year of 1931, which has been one of the worst
years for delayed foliation. Observation the past

two years has shown that the leaves and blos-
soms come out vigorously and simultaneously,
while, both in 1930 and 1931, and particularly in
the year 1931, other varieties of late freestone type
failed to come out properly in the warm valley
climate of Southern California, the blossoms
coming first, but owing to the condition of the
sap, the blossoms did not have sufficient strength,
and fell off, with the result that the crop was
either light or a total failure, and the leaves did
not follow the blossoms for a month or six weeks.
But with this newly discovered plant it was dif-
ferent. The blossoms came out vigorously and
the leaves followed soon thereafter, and a bounti-
ful crop of fruit was gathered both years. In
fact the fruit had to be thinned both years.
Buds from this tree have been used to bud
other trees and the largest of these are now be-
tween two and three feet in height.
The drawing submitted illustrates a twig of
the tree in full leaf. It grew up from the root
stock and probably represents a hybrid between
the variety used as stock and some other variety
with which it may have been pollinated.
In comparison with other late ripening varieties
of peach, this particular fruit is better flavored,
more juicy, and has better keeping qualities in
storage. A marked difference in the tree is that
the growth of the limbs is moderately slender and
open, and the leaves are narrower and more
slender, and are also of a lighter green in color.
I claim:
A peach tree, as described, characterized by its
early leafing, heavy bearing tendency, and late
ripening of its fruit which is better flavored, more
juicy, has better keeping qualities, and an attrac-
tive color, shape and size.

VINCENT G. LUCAS.

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