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FLOWERING CRABAPPLE TREE

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FIG. 1



FIG. 3



FIG. 2



FIG. 4



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3,644

## FLOWERING CRABAPPLE TREE

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### 1 Claim

The present invention or discovery relates to a new and distinct variety of ornamental crabapple tree origi-  
nated by me, having in combination novel fruit, foliage,  
and habit of growth, and more particularly consists in  
a novel variety of Malus, GV-18, flowering crabapple,  
having unusual and distinctive characteristics.

My new flowering crabapple tree is a small tree of  
medium to rapid growth rate having a rounded, umbrella-  
like top, with a distinct pendulous habit, each branch  
arching in pattern. The branches are slender and flexible  
giving a soft textured appearance, and, in bloom, the  
tree bears a large number of small white flowers, with  
abundant flower clusters at substantially every node along  
the twig, giving a "cloud" cover to the tree. The tree  
regularly bears an abundance of small, lemon yellow to  
greenish yellow fruits. Because of the tree's unusual  
growth habit and comparatively small size at maturity  
and abundant flowers, this new and distinct variety of  
ornamental crabapple tree is particularly suited for use  
for general landscape and park planting.

The novel and distinctive features of this new variety  
are accordingly considered to be, in combination:

1. The multi-branched form of the tree with soft tex-  
tured arching and pendulous branches and rounded  
umbrella-like top.
2. The abundance of small white flower clusters.
3. The attractively shaped leaves which are of medium  
texture and moderate olive green on the top side and  
moderate yellow green to strong yellow green on the  
under side.
4. The small, glossy, lemon yellow to greenish yellow  
fruits which are borne abundantly and prominently in  
clusters of two to five.
5. The relative ease of production of the trees.
6. The apparent resistance of the trees to serious  
diseases.

There is a large demand for small ornamental flower-  
ing trees for landscape planting, and flowering crabapple  
trees have been recognized over a long period of time as  
especially suitable for such purposes. The tree of the  
present invention is particularly desirable because it  
affords, in combination, a distinct pendulous habit, with  
rounded, umbrella-like top and arching branches, an  
abundance of attractive flowers during the blooming  
period, and an abundance of glossy lemon yellow to  
greenish yellow fruits. Because of its unusual growth  
habit and comparatively small size at maturity and abun-  
dant flowers, this cultivar is especially suited for general  
landscape and park planting.

My new flowering crabapple tree has been propagated  
asexually at Painesville and Circleville, Ohio, by budding  
and grafting, and the tree can be very readily propagated  
in this manner, perpetuating all of its original charac-  
teristics. The original parent specimen was a seedling  
grown by me at Gardenvue Horticultural Park, Strong-  
sville, Ohio, and such original parent specimen was dis-  
covered and selected by me in a large plantation of crab-  
apple tree seedlings grown by me from seeds.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing:

FIG. 1 shows my flowering crabapple tree in the spring  
blooming season;

FIG. 2 shows a branchlet of such tree bearing a num-  
ber of unopened flower buds;

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FIG. 3 shows a branchlet of such tree with such flowers  
in full and heavy bloom; and

FIG. 4 shows the fruits and typical foliage of such  
tree, the fruit color having changed from yellow to  
brownish orange following a hard frost.

The following is a specific description of such new  
variety, the color terminology in reference to the buds,  
flowers, and foliage being based on the Nickerson Color  
Fan approved by the American Horticultural Society.

The original specimen is a tree approximately 15 feet  
high and 15 to 18 feet wide with a rounded, umbrella-  
like top and arching branches. The growth rate of this  
cultivar is medium to rapid, with a distinct pendulous  
habit, each branch arching in pattern. The inspected  
specimen propagated from the parent plant is approxi-  
mately 8 feet high and 5 feet wide.

The branches of the tree are slender and flexible giv-  
ing a soft textured appearance, and the branchlets are  
pubescent near the tip becoming nearly glabrous at the  
base of the current year's growth. Two-year branches  
are somewhat scurfy and essentially glabrous. The one-  
year twigs are moderate reddish brown to strong brown  
(7.5 R—3/6 to 2.5 YR—4/7) (Nickerson Color Fan),  
whereas the two-year twigs range from moderate olive  
brown to moderate yellowish brown (2.5 Y—4/4 to  
10 YR—4/4). Lenticels are sparse and not prominent  
at the tips of the current season's growth, but become  
more plentiful and prominent near the base of one-year  
twigs, and are slightly raised and corky on two-year twigs.

The side, dormant, leaf buds are oblong, semi-pointed,  
mostly approximately 4–5 mm. in length, and are borne  
close or slightly diverging from the twig. The buds have  
3 to 5 pairs of scales which are quite pubescent near  
the tip but less so near the base of one-year twigs. Bud  
color is moderate reddish brown (7.5 R—3/6), similar  
to the color of the one-year twigs.

The flower buds are ovoid, approximately 10–12 mm. in  
length, and are strong purplish red to deep purplish pink  
(7.5 RP—5/12 to 7.5 RP—6/12). The color of the ex-  
panding flower buds is deep purplish pink to strong pur-  
plish pink (7.5 RP—6/12 to 7.5 RP—7/10).

The inner surface of the petals of the opening flowers  
is white tinged with light to strong purplish pink, whereas  
the color of the outer surface of the petals is a strong  
purplish pink to a light purplish pink (7.5 RP—7/10 to  
7.5 RP—8/5). One day old flowers are essentially white  
but may have a pale purplish pink tint overcast which  
deepens around the margin of the petals.

The flowers are single, approximately 2.5 to 3.5 cm.  
across, composed of 5 petals, approximately 1.3 to 1.5  
cm. in length, ovoid, with a short claw. The petals are  
somewhat variable, often with one of the five petals im-  
perfect, and rounded at the tip with a wavy margin. The  
flower stems vary in length from approximately 3.3 to  
4.2 cm., are flexible, somewhat curved and drooping. The  
pedicel color is variable, depending on exposure; varying  
from a moderate reddish brown to a deep purplish red  
(7.5 R—3/6 to 10 RP—3/10) where exposed to the  
sun, and are a dark greenish yellow (7.5 Y—6/7) where  
shaded.

Flower clusters are borne abundantly at substantially  
every node along the twig, giving a "cloud-like" cover to  
the tree, and there are usually 6 flowers per cluster al-  
though the number may vary from 4 to 6. Duration of  
bloom is approximately a week to ten days, flowering in  
late April or early May. The young developing leaves are  
essentially hidden by the abundance of flowers.

The leaves are generally elliptic to oblong in shape,  
very attractive, of medium texture, and moderate olive  
green (7.5 GY—4/4) above and moderate yellow green  
to strong yellow green (5 GY—5/6 to 5 GY—6/8) on



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the underside. The leaf blade is variable in size ranging from approximately 5.0 to 6.6 cm. in length, with a petiole of approximately 1.0 to 2.3 cm. on flowering shoots, to approximately 6.0 to 9.0 cm. with a petiole of approximately 1.2 to 2.5 cm. in length on vegetative shoots. Leaves on two-year fruiting stems are quite variable, ranging from less than a centimeter in length to normal size.

The leaves are serrate to crenate-serrate, the teeth most prominent on leaves on vegetative shoots. Leaves on fruiting branches may be nearly entirely at the base. The veins of the leaf are anastomosing. The leaves are slightly hairy above, pubescent to sparingly pubescent below becoming essentially glabrous at maturity. The tips of the leaves are acuminate to short-acuminate, with leaf bases acute to tapering. Threadlike stipules are generally present early in the season but later wanting.

The fruits are small, glossy or sometimes russeted, approximately 1.0 to 1.3 cm. long and 0.8 to 1.0 cm. broad at the widest point just below the middle, oblong in shape, borne abundantly and prominently in clusters of 2 to 5, mostly 4's. Final color of sun exposed fruit is lemon yellow to greenish yellow. The blush covers approximately one-third of the fruit surface. The color of shaded fruit is a strong greenish yellow (7.5 Y—7/9). The

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strongest color of the fruit is reached in late September to early October. The fruit stems are slender, drooping, tightly attached to the twigs and range in length from approximately 3.0 to 4.2 cm. The calyx is deciduous and both the stem and calyx ends of the fruit are depressed. The first hard frost changes the color of the fruit to an orange yellow which may be brownish orange to strong orange (5 YR—5/8 to 5 YR—6/11), and the fruit will remain on the tree after the first hard frost for many weeks until eaten by the birds.

Because of its unusual growth habit, comparatively small size at maturity, and abundant flowers, this cultivar is particularly suited for general landscape and park planting.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of flowering crabapple tree, *Malus cultivar*, having a distinct pendulous habit, with rounded, umbrella-like top and arching branches, an abundance of small white flower clusters during the blooming period, and an abundance of small, glossy, lemon yellow to greenish yellow fruits.

No references cited.

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