

[54] NECTARINE TREE, "MIKE'S GRAND"
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[57] ABSTRACT
A nectarine tree which very heavily and regularly bears
fruit having yellow, semi-freestone flesh and red skin,
and which ripens early in the season.
1 Drawing Figure

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct
variety of nectarine tree, denominated by the varietal
name "MIKE'S GRAND", and more particularly to
such a nectarine tree that is broadly similar to the Star
Brite Nectarine Tree (as yet unpatented), but from
which it is distinguished by its bearing of fruit having a
deeper suture with flesh adhering to its stone on both
sutures and having more abundant, coarser fibers.
The subject variety is also closely similar to the May
Grand Nectarine Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 2,794) but is
distinguished therefrom by its fruit which has flesh
more yellow in color and skin somewhat less bright in
color, the fruit having a somewhat flatter configuration
and ripening two to three days earlier than that of the
May Grand.

ORIGIN AND ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION OF
THE NEW VARIETY

The subject variety was discovered by us growing in
an orchard which we farmed on the East Side Ranch at
16405 East Goodfellow, in the City of Sanger, in the
County of Fresno, in the State of Calif. It was found as
a single branch growing in an orchard of Early Sun-
grand Nectarine Trees (unpatented) owned by a part-
nership comprised of the applicant Richard Peters and
CLW and Associates, a New Jersey Corporation. The
new variety was asexually reproduced by budding
under our supervision and at our instructions at the
Bright's Nursery in Le Grand, Calif. Fruit and tree
characteristics resulting from this budding proved iden-
tical to those of the original sport.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW VARIETY

The instant variety of nectarine tree is characterized
by perpetuating the general characteristics of the May
Grand Nectarine Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 2,794) in its
bearing of early-ripening, semi-freestone fruit, but is
distinguished therefrom as to novelty by its greater
productivity of fruit having a somewhat flatter shape
and which ripens two or three days earlier than that of
the May Grand.
The new nectarine tree bears fruit maturing in early
June, whose skin attains a color of Maroon (Plate 7-L-7)
on a ground color of Doubloom or Roman Ochre (Plate
11-K-10) and whose semi-freestone flesh attains a color
of Spanish Yellow (Plate 10-L-7) and has firm, meaty
texture with abundant, coarse fibers.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying drawing is a color photograph of
four mature nectarines of the subject variety with one of
the fruits divided along the suture plane to show the
flesh color and stone characteristics, together with a
representative twig bearing characteristic leaves.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the pomological de-
tails of the new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, the
following has been observed under the ecological con-
ditions prevailing in the designated orchard in Fresno
County, Calif. All color code plate identifications are
by reference to the A. Maerz and M. Paul *Dictionary of
Color*, Second Edition, 1950.

TREE

Size: Large.
Figure: Spreading.
Productivity: Very productive.
Regularity of bearing: Regular.
Trunk:
Diameter in relation to length.—Stocky.
Surface characteristics.—Medium.
Branches:
Size.—Medium.
Surface character.—Medium.
Color.—Montella (Plate 8-J-11).
Lenticels.—Number — numerous; size — 0.75
mm×5 mm.
Leaves:
Size.—Large.
Length.—170 mm.
Width.—45 mm.
Shape.—Oval, lanceolate.
Color.—Upperside — Privet (Plate 24-J-6); Lower-
side — Cedar Green (Plate 23-H-6).
Marginal form.—Finely serrate.
Petiole.—Length — 12 mm; Thickness — 2 mm.
Stem glands.—Number — 1 to 3. Arrangement —
Variable. Size — 0.3 mm×0.5 mm. Type —
Reniform. Color — Gold.
Flower buds:
Size.—Medium to large.
Shape.—Obtuse-conical and plump.
Surface.—Pubescent.
Flowers:

Dates of bloom in 1983.—Pink bud, Feb. 14; first bloom, Feb. 16; 25% of bloom complete, Feb. 21; full bloom, Feb. 25.

Size.—Large.

Color.—Upperside — Sweet briar (Plate 1-D-4).
Lowerside — Sweet briar (Plate 1-E-4).

Number of pistils and stamens.—Pistils — 1; Stamen — 36 to 44.

FRUIT

Maturity: Met minimum maturity standards in Arvin, Calif. on June 1, 1983.

Size:

Uniformity.—Uniform

Diameter.—59 to 71 mm.

Transverse in suture plane.—56 to 68 mm.

Transverse at right angles to suture plane.—58 to 68 mm.

Form:

Uniformity.—Uniform.

Symmetry.—Round-oblong with equal sides.

Suture.—Distinct, deep, extending from base to pistil point.

Ventral surface.—Lipped throughout.

Stem cavity.—Acute, 15 mm×20 mm×10 mm deep.

Base.—Shoulders rounded.

Apex.—Cuspidate.

Pistil point.—Apical.

Stem.—Length — 8 mm; caliper — 3 mm.

Skin.—Thickness — Medium; Texture — Medium; Tendency to Crack — None; Color — Ground color: Doubloom to Roman Ochre (Plate 11-K-10); Blush — Maroon (Plate 7-L-7); Pubescence — None.

Flesh:

Color.—Spanish Yellow (Plate 10-L-7).

Color of pit well.—Honey Sweet (Plate 11-J-6).

Juice.—Juicy.

Flavor.—Pleasant, subacid.

Aroma.—Pleasant.

Texture.—Firm, meaty.

Fibers.—Abundant, coarse and tough.

Ripening.—Even.

Eating quality: Good.

Stone: Semi-free, with some flesh adhering on both sutures.

Size.—Large, 40 mm long, 26 mm breadth, 20 mm thick,

Form.—Oblong; cuneate towards apex.

Sutures.—Ventral — Narrow and shallowly grooved. Dorsal — Wide with shallow groove throughout.

Base.—Straight.

Sides.—Irregularly furrowed near apex, pitted toward base.

Color.—Cork (Plate 12-B-7).

Splitting tendency.—Slight.

Use: Fresh market.

Keeping quality: Good.

Shipping quality: Good.

Although the new variety of nectarine tree possesses the described characteristics as a result of the growing conditions in Fresno County, Calif., in the central part of the San Joaquin Valley, it is to be understood that variations of the usual magnitude in characteristics incident to growing conditions, fertilization, pruning and pest control are to be expected.

Having thus described and illustrated our new variety of Nectarine Tree, what is new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A new and distinct variety of nectarine tree substantially as illustrated and described broadly characterized by its general similarity to the May Grand Nectarine Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 2,794) in its early bearing of fruit having yellow flesh but from which it is distinguished as to novelty by its regular and very productive bearing of fruit having a more completely yellow flesh and a somewhat flatter appearance, ripening two or three days earlier than that of the May Grand variety.

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U.S. Patent

Dec. 3, 1985

Plant 5,587

