

US00PP10557P

United States Patent [19]
Flemer, III

[11] Patent Number: Plant 10,557
[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 18, 1998

[54] MAACKIA AMURENSIS PLANT NAMED
‘STARBURST’

[75] Inventor: William Flemer, III, Plainsboro
Township, Middlesex County, N.J.

[73] Assignee: Newplant Associates, Allentown, N.J.

[21] Appl. No.: 754,087

[22] Filed: Nov. 20, 1996

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A01H 5/00

[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./51.1

[58] Field of Search Plt./51.1

[56] References Cited
PUBLICATIONS

Huxley, et al., (Eds.) “Maackia”, The New Royal Horticul-

tural Dictionary of Gardening—3, 1992, The Stockton
Press, New York, p. 174.

Primary Examiner—James R. Feyrer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—John H. Vynalek

[57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct variety of *Maackia amurensis* tree,
characterized particularly as to novelty by its straight trunk
with attractive peeling coppery bark, exceptionally vigorous
growth and its very large showy and abundant white panicles
of flowers, born upright in closely clustered panicles at the
ends of thick twigs.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

The discovery of this disclosure is an exceptional tree
belonging to *Maackia amurensis*, a species of tree which is
generally appreciated to have potential in landscaping for
use as a border tree or for use as an appointment specimen
which has attractive foliage, very attractive bark, a dense
habit, a slow rate of growth, and an attractive shape.
Members of the species produce flowers similar to those of
the common pea, which are conspicuous due to their group-
ings in dense racemes and by their coloration which is in
white shades which contrast with the bright green foliage.
Normally, members of this species require little mainte-
nance, pruning and training to result in a tree of attractive
shape. This species also blooms in a summer season when
few other of species of trees bloom, offering a splash of color
to the landscape and garden. The tree of this disclosure
resulted from a planned breeding program when open pol-
linated seeds were taken from a selected parent, *Maackia*
amurensis ‘Select’. This selected tree was seen to stand apart
from the parent ‘Select’ and sibling trees within the popu-
lation due to its much higher growth rate, higher level of
vigor, higher level of terminal dominance, exceptional level
of attractive foliage, attractive, rounded figure, resulting
from well placed strong scaffold branches, and uniformly
dense presentation of terminal racemes numbering one cen-
tral panicle and 6 secondary panicles per stem terminal when
flowering. Following selection of this tree, it has been
asexually reproduced by budding in a nursery located near
Upper Freehold Township, N.J. The resulting clones of this
tree have remained identical to the original selection in all
distinguishing characteristics as best as I can determine.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The plant of this application was first noticed in a row of
sibling seedlings. It stood out because of its straight trunk
and exceptionally vigorous growth, being more than one-
third taller than the other seedling grown plants in the same
and adjacent rows. The tree was transplanted and grown on
to blooming age. It bears very showy and abundant white
panicles of flowers, born upright in closely clustered
panicles at the ends of thick twigs. I have caused the plant
to be asexually reproduced by bud grafting and find that it
comes true in successive generations which have been
produced over time.

2

The tree of this disclosure is more stately, forms a denser,
more uniformly rounded and attractive canopy, and has a
more prolific and a more conspicuously attractive flowering
habit when compared with the species. Specifically, the
individual flowers of this tree are slightly larger than typical
flowers of the species, while their color is white, typical of
the species. The flowering of this tree differs from the
species in the large size and density of the flower clusters,
being held upright or vertical on the ends of the twigs. The
leaf color is darker than other trees of the species with the
individual leaflets about twice as thick. The branch density
of this tree is greater than the parent tree. The leaves are
larger than the parent which has leaves 16 to 20 cm. long and
6 to 8 cm. wide. The leaflets are also larger than those of the
parent tree which are 4 cm. long and 2.2 cm. wide. The
nodes are wider apart than that of the parent tree which has
nodes 6 cm. apart. Also the color of the bark of this tree is
different from the parent which has a color of brownish
orange 2.5 YR 5/9. The fall foliage color and leaf fall date
do not differ from other trees of the species.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new variety of *Maackia* is illustrated by the accom-
panying photographic drawings and depicts the plant by the
best possible color representation using color photography.
FIG. 1 is a view showing the detail of the flower panicles.
FIG. 2 is a view showing the entire tree.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

All color references below are measured against Munsell
Limit Color Cascade. Colors are approximate as color
depends on horticultural practices such as light level and
fertilization rate, among others.

Parentage:
Seed parent.—*Maackia amurensis* ‘Select’.
Pollen parent.—Unknown.
Tree: Medium height and spreading, dense crown, and very
hardy.
Trunk.—Stocky and smooth, attractive, peeling cop-
pery bark, color: Strong brown 2.5 YR 4/7.
Branches.—Stocky and smooth, densely borne at an
average 60 degree angle from the perpendicular

central trunk. Color — Moderate olive, 5Y 4/3. Lenticels — Small; numbering 2 to 3 per cm of twig length.

Leaves.—Quantity — Abundant, pinnately compound, leaflets opposite on stem. The leaf pose is upright on the twigs at about a 55 degree angle from the twig. Length — 20 to 22 cm. Width — 8 to 10 cm. Shape — Pinnately compound; 13 leaflets per stem; Leaflets 5 cm long; 2.4 cm wide. Color — Moderate olive green, 5GY 4/3. Margin — Smooth edge. Petiole — Medium. Internode length — 8 cm. Glands — None.

Flower buds.—Flowers borne in the summer on new growth shoots and not noticeable on winter twigs. The flowering dates of the tree are slightly later than sibling trees which are normally August 1 to August 20. Quantity — Abundant; borne in clustered racemes; one large central panicle surrounded by 6 smaller panicles. Size — Large; central panicle 14

cm long, ancillary panicles 8 to 10 cm long; 110 to 190 florets per panicle.

Flowers.—Size — 1.2 cm long and 0.5 cm wide. Color — White, typical of other members of species. Number of petals — 4. Shape of petals — Ovate. Size of petals — Length 0.5 cm. Width 0.3 cm. Color — White.

Fruits.—Linear oblong pods; not conspicuous. When borne — Fall. Abundance — Not abundant. Size — 3.5 to 4.5 cm long. Color — Strong yellowish brown; 10 YR 5/6.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of *Maackia amurensis* tree, as illustrated and described, characterized particularly as to novelty by its straight trunk with attractive peeling coppery bark, exceptionally vigorous growth and its very large showy and abundant white panicles of flowers, born upright in closely clustered panicles at the ends of thick twigs.

* * * * *

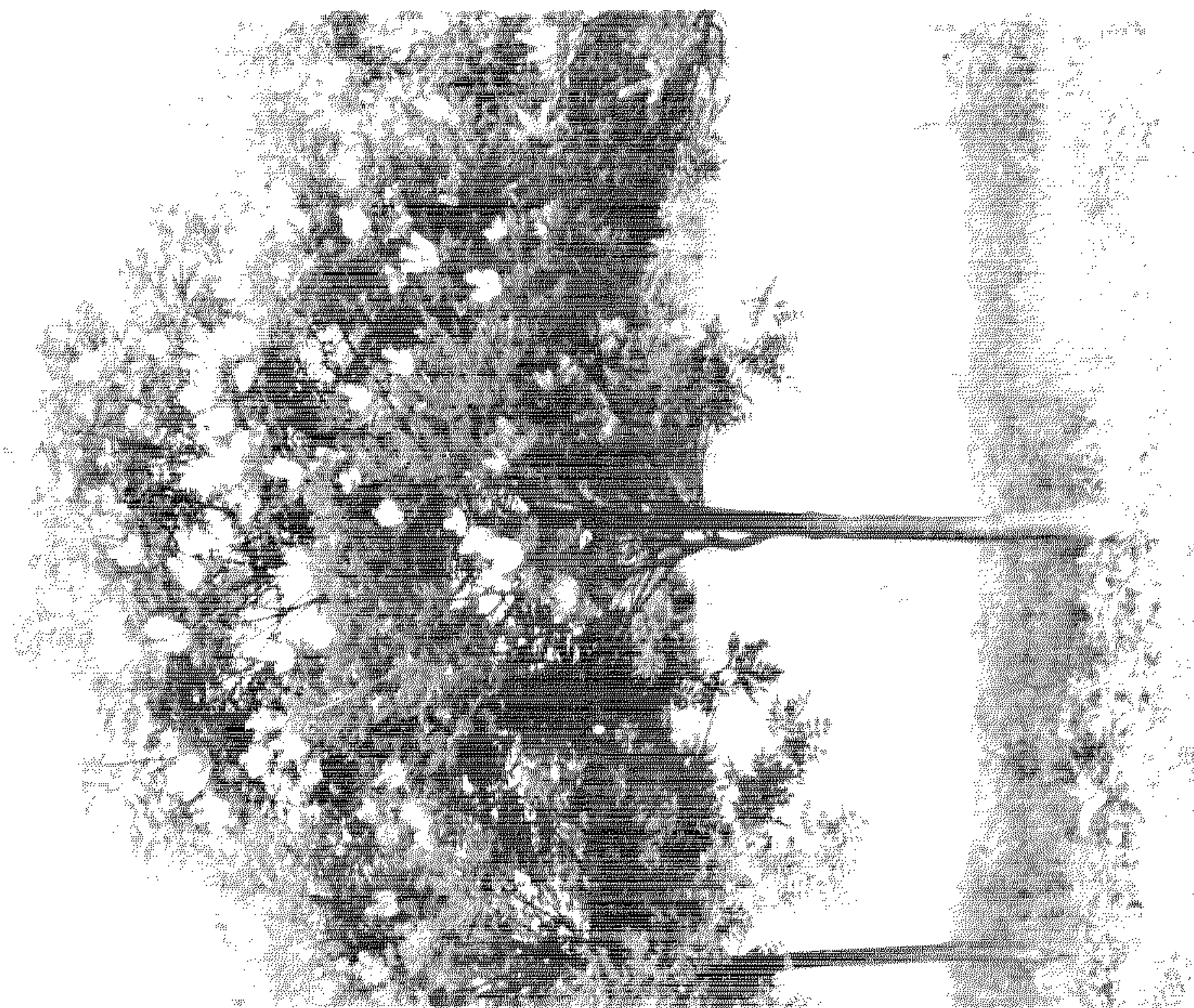


Fig. 2



Fig. 1