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Bradford

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(54) **NECTARINE TREE NAMED 'DIAMOND JUNE'**

P.P. 8,948 10/1994 Bradford et al. Plt./192

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(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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(58) **Field of Search** **Plt./190**

The present invention relates to a nectarine tree, *Prunus persica*, and more particularly to a new and distinct variety broadly characterized by a medium sized, vigorous, self-fertile, productive and regular bearing tree. The fruit matures under the ecological conditions described approximately the third week in June, with first picking on Jun. 25, 1999. The fruit is uniformly medium in size, acidic and sweet in flavor, globose in shape, clingstone in type, firm and crisp in texture, and fully red in skin color. The variety was a first generation cross using Diamond Ray U.S. Plant Pat. No. (8,948) yellow flesh nectarine as the selected seed parent and an unnamed nectarine seedling as the selected pollen parent.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

P.P. 6,981 8/1989 Bradford et al. Plt./192

1 Drawing Sheet

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BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

In a continuing effort to improve the quality of fresh market and shipping fruits, I, the inventor, typically hybridize a large number of nectarine and peach seedlings each year. The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of nectarine tree (*Prunus persica*), which has been denominated varietally as 'DIAMOND JUNE'. The present variety was hybridized in 1992, grown as a seedling on its own root in the greenhouse, and transplanted to a cultivated area of my experimental orchard at Bradford Farms near Le Grand, Calif. in Merced County (San Joaquin Valley). It was developed as a first generation cross using Diamond Ray (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,948) yellow flesh nectarine as the seed parent and an unnamed nectarine as the selected pollen parent. Subsequent to origination of the present variety of nectarine tree, I asexually reproduced it by budding and grafting, in the experimental orchard described above, and such reproduction of plant and fruit characteristics were true to the original plant in all respects. The reproduction of the variety included the use of Nemaguard Rootstock (unpatented), the standard of the stone fruit industry in central California, upon which the present variety was compatible and true to type.

The present variety is most similar to Sparkling June (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,981) nectarine, by producing fruit that is full red in skin color, yellow in flesh color, firm in texture, acidic in flavor and that ripens in mid June during normal years, but is distinguished therefrom and an improvement thereon by having globose instead of reinform glands and by producing fruit that is larger in size and clingstone instead of freestone.

The present variety is similar to its seed parent, Diamond Ray (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 8,948) nectarine, by producing firm, full red, yellow flesh, clingstones nectarines, but is distinguished therefrom by producing fruit that ripens about 16 days earlier.

DRAWING

The accompanying photograph exhibits four whole fruits positioned to display the characteristics of the skin color and

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form, one fruit divided transversely to the suture plane to reveal the flesh and stone, and typical leaves.

POMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Referring now more specifically to the pomological characteristics of this new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, the following has been observed of a 5 year-old tree grown under the ecological conditions prevailing near Le Grand, Merced County (San Joaquin Valley), Calif., and was developed at the state of hard shipping ripe on Jun. 28, 1999. However, during 1999 most stone fruit varieties in California ripened approximately ten days later than normal. All major color code designations are by reference to the Inter-Society Color Council, National Bureau of Standards. Common color names are also used occasionally.

TREE

Size: Medium, reaching and maintaining a height of 12' [3.66 meters] after the 5th growing season with typical dormant pruning utilized.

Vigor: Vigorous, responding typically to irrigation and fertilization. The plant should be grown on a standard commercial rootstock for production purposes. The variety grows about 3' [0.91 meters] of surplus top-growth during the spring and summer.

Growth: Spreading and dense.

Form: Vase formed.

Hardiness: Hardy with respect to typical central California winters.

Production: Productive, thinning required.

Fertility: Self-fertile.

Bearing: Regular bearer, with no alternate bearing observed.

Trunk:

Size.—Medium, reaching a maximum diameter of 6½" [165 mm.] after 7 growing seasons.

Texture.—Shaggy.

Bark color.—Grayish yellowish brown [80. gy.yBr].

Lenticles.—Numerous. Color: Dark orange yellow [72. d.OY]. Typical Size: $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{7}{16}$ " [3.2–11.1 mm.].

Branches:

Size.—Medium, typical of *Prunus persica*.

Texture.—Smooth on 1st year wood, increasing roughness with age.

Color.—1st Year Wood Topside: Light grayish red [18. L. gy.R]. 1st Year Wood Underside: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG]. Older Wood: Moderate yellowish brown [77. m.yBr].

Lenticles.—Numerous, very small. Color: Deep orange yellow [69. deep OY]. Size: $\frac{1}{32}$ " [0.8–3.2 mm.].

Leaves:

Size.—Large. Average Length: $6\frac{1}{4}$ " [158.8 mm.]. Average Width: $1\frac{3}{4}$ " [44.5 mm.].

Thickness.—Medium.

Form.—Elliptical.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Acute.

Surface.—Smooth.

Color.—Dorsal Surface: Moderate olive green [125. m.OLG]. Ventral Surface: Moderate yellow green [120. m.YG].

Margin.—Finely serrate.

Venation.—Pinnately net veined.

Petiole.—Average Length: $\frac{3}{8}$ " [9.5 mm.]. Average Thickness: $\frac{1}{16}$ " [1.6 mm.]. Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG].

Stipules.—2 per leaf bud, up to 6 at the growing tip. Average Length: $\frac{3}{8}$ " [9.5 mm.].

Glands.—Numbers: 1 to 4, but mostly 2, per leaf. Position: Alternately positioned on petiole and base of blade. Size: Medium. Form: Globose. Color: Light yellow green [119. L.YG].

Flower buds:

Hardiness.—Hardy with respect to central California winters.

Diameter.—Typically $\frac{3}{8}$ " [9.5 mm.] 1 week before bloom.

Length.—Typically $\frac{3}{4}$ " [19.1 mm.] 1 week before bloom.

Form.—Not appressed.

Color.—Dark purplish pink [251. d.p. Pk.].

Surface.—Pubescent.

Flowers: Perfect, complete, perigynous, usually a single pistil, typically thirty or more stamens, five sepals and petal locations alternately positioned.

Blooming period.—Medium as compared with other varieties.

Onset of bloom.—One percent on Mar. 6, 1999.

Duration of bloom.—One to two weeks, dependent on ambient temperature.

Type.—Showy.

Number of petals.—Usually five, with a few doubles.

Number per cluster.—Generally from 1 to 3.

Petal shape.—Rounded.

Petal margin.—Slightly wavy.

Average petal diameter.— $1\frac{1}{16}$ " [17.5 mm.].

Petal color.—Light purplish pink [249. L.pPk].

Anther color.—Moderate red [15. m.R].

Average pistil length.— $1\frac{1}{16}$ " [17.5 mm.].

Fragrance.—Strong when nectar is present.

Average diameter.— $1\frac{7}{8}$ " [47.6 mm.].

FRUIT

Maturity when described: Hard shipping ripe, Jun. 28, 1999, noting the 1999 ripening season was delayed about ten days later than normal.

Date of first picking: Jun. 25, 1999.

Date of last picking: Jul. 7, 1999.

Size: Uniform, large.

Average diameter axially.— $2\frac{3}{4}$ " [69.9 mm.].

Average diameter across suture plane.— $2\frac{3}{4}$ " [69.9 mm.].

Typical weight.—6.67 ounces [189 grams].

Form: Globose, uniform, symmetrical.

Longitudinal section form.—Round.

Transverse section through diameter.—Round.

Suture: An inconspicuous line on the lateral surface transforming into a shallow groove toward the apex with a depression beyond the pistil point.

Ventral surface: Rounded.

Lips: Slightly unequal.

Cavity: Flaring, elongated in the suture plane, suture showing on one side, stem markings typical.

Depth.— $\frac{3}{8}$ " [9.5 mm.].

Breadth.— $\frac{7}{8}$ " [22.22 mm.].

Base: Rounded to somewhat truncate.

Apex: Rounded.

Pistil point: Oblique, negligible in length, depressed within the suture.

Stem: Medium.

Average length.— $\frac{3}{8}$ " [9.5 mm.].

Average width.— $\frac{3}{16}$ " [4.8 mm.].

Skin:

Thickness.—Medium.

Texture.—Medium.

Tenacity.—Tenacious to flesh.

Tendency to crack.—Slight in wet seasons.

Color.—Dark red [16. d.R] smoothly blending into dark reddish orange [38. d.rO], with a minor amount of deep orange yellow [69. deep OY] freckling toward the apex.

Flesh:

Color.—Brilliant yellow [83. brill.Y] with a very slight amount of deep red [13. deep R] flecking on the more mature fruits.

Surface of pit cavity.—Brilliant yellow [83. brill.Y] fibers breaking when twisted away from the stone.

Amygdalin.—Moderate.

Juice.—Abundant, rich.

Texture.—Firm, crisp.

Fibers.—Abundant, fine.

Ripens.—Slightly earlier on the shoulders of the base.

Flavor.—Acidic and sweet, typically 13 brix.

Aroma.—Slight.

Eating quality.—Very good.

STONE

Type: Clingstone.

Form: Oval.

Base: Straight.

Apex: Acute.

Hilum: Narrow.

Sides: Slightly unequal.

Surface: Irregularly furrowed toward the apex, pitted toward the base.

Ridges: Jagged toward the base.

Color: Light yellowish brown [76. L.yBr] when first removed from fruit.

Pit wall: $\frac{1}{4}$ " [6.4 mm.] thick.

Tendency to split: Slight.

Kernel:

Form.—Oval.*Taste.*—Sweet.*Viable.*—Yes.*Average width.*— $\frac{1}{2}$ " [12.7 mm.].*Average length.*— $\frac{13}{16}$ " [20.6 mm.].*Pellicle color.*—Grayish yellow [90. gy.Y].*Skin color.*—Light yellow [86. L.Y] with grayish yellow [90. gy.Y] veins when first removed from stone.*Amygdalin.*—Scant.

USE

Market: Fresh and long distance shipping.

Keeping quality: Fruit quality observed to remain in good condition in excess of 17 days in cold room at 36° Fahrenheit [2° Celsius].

Resistance to insects: No unusual susceptibilities noted.

Resistance to diseases: No unusual susceptibilities noted.

Although the new variety of nectarine tree possesses the described characteristics under the ecological conditions at Le Grand, Calif., in the central part of the San Joaquin Valley, it is to be expected that variations in these characteristics may occur when farmed in areas with different climatic conditions, different soil types, and/or varying cultural practices.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, substantially as illustrated and described, that is most similar to Sparkling June (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 6,981) nectarine, by producing fruit that is full red in skin color, yellow in flesh color, firm in texture, acidic in flavor and that ripens in mid June during normal years, but is distinguished therefrom and an improvement thereon by having globose instead of reniform glands and by producing fruit that is larger in size and clingstone instead of freestone.

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