

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Izumi

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(54) ***SALIX* PLANT NAMED ‘GOLDEN SUNSHINE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Salix sachalinensis*
Varietal Denomination: **Golden Sunshine**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./216**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./216,
Plt./226

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Salix* plant named ‘golden
Sunshine’, characterized by its golden-colored spring foli-
age that matures to chartreuse-colored autumn foliage, and
compact growth habit.

1 Drawing Sheet

1

Latin name of genus and species of plant claimed: *Salix*
sachalinensis.

Variety denomination: ‘Golden Sunshine’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Salix* plant botanically known as *Salix sachalinensis* and
hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name ‘Golden Sun-
shine’.

The new *Salix* cultivar is a naturally-occurring whole
plant mutation discovered in a controlled planting of the
species *Salix sachalinensis*, not patented. The species *Salix*
sachalinensis is characterized by its green-colored foliage
and large rounded growth habit. The species *Salix sachalin-*
ensis is a small tree growing to 6 m (20 feet) high, typically
as a multi-trunk with a spreading growth habit. The plant is
native to Japan including Shikoku, Honshu, and Hokkaido.

The new cultivar was discovered and selected as a single
plant within a population of plants of *Salix sachalinensis*
during January 2005 in a controlled environment at Iyo-city,
Japan.

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal stem
cuttings since August 2005 at Iyo-city, Japan has demon-
strated that the new cultivar reproduces true to type with all
of the characteristics, as herein described, firmly fixed and
retained through successive generations of such asexual
propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following characteristics of the new cultivar have
been repeatedly observed and can be used to distinguish
‘Golden Sunshine’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Salix*
plant:

1. Golden-colored spring foliage that matures to
chartreuse-colored autumn foliage; and
2. Compact growth habit.

Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of the parent
Salix sachalinensis species in foliage color and growth habit.

The only commercially available *Salix sachalinensis* cul-
tivar known to the inventor, is the cultivar ‘Sekka’, not pat-
ented. Plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of

2

‘Sekka’ primarily in branch orientation as plants of ‘Sekka’
typically have twisted and contorted branches.

Plants of the parent species *Salix sachalinensis* are the
most similar in comparison to the new cultivar. However, in
comparison, plants of the new cultivar differ from plants of
Salix sachalinensis in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new cultivar have a golden-colored spring
foliage that matures to chartreuse-colored autumn
foliage, while plants of the species have green foliage;
and
2. Plants of the new cultivar exhibit compact growth habit
as compared to the species.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show, as nearly true as it
is reasonably possible to make the same in color illustrations
of this type, typical foliage characteristics of the new culti-
var. Colors in the photographs differ slightly from the color
values cited in the detailed description, which accurately
describes the colors of ‘Golden Sunshine’. The plant illus-
trated was grown for approximately two years in an outdoor
nursery in Iyo-city, Japan.

FIG. 1 illustrates the overall growth and habit of ‘Golden
Sunshine’.

FIG. 2 illustrates a close-up view of the foliage of ‘Golden
Sunshine’.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close-up view of stem cuttings of
‘Golden Sunshine’.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new cultivar has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions to date. Accordingly, it is possible
that the phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in the
environment, such as temperature, light intensity, and day
length, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The chart used in the identification of colors described
herein is The R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticul-
tural Society, London, England, 2001 edition, except where
general color terms of ordinary significance are used. The
color values were determined under natural light conditions
in Iyo-city, Japan.

The following descriptions and measurements describe plants produced from cuttings and grown in a cultivated area of an outdoor nursery in Iyo-city Japan. The plant size and description are based on plants grown for approximately two years with day temperatures ranging from 8° C. to 31° C. (47° F. to 87° F.) and night temperatures ranging from 1° C. to 24° C. (34° F. to 75° F.)

Botanical classification: *Salix sachalinensis* cultivar Golden Sunshine.

Parentage:

Parents.—*Salix sachalinensis* F. Schmidt, (S. opaca Seem.).

General plant description:

Overall habit.—‘Golden Sunshine’ is a compact growing deciduous shrub or small tree. Mature specimen is 4 meters tall and 3 meters wide. Branching typically multi-stem arising from several trunks located close to the ground. Lateral branches are numerous and sparsely pubescent becoming glabrous, glossy as they mature.

Overall size.—Height varies dependent upon climatic exposure and soil. A plant in the landscape, in full sun measures about 4 meters tall and 3 meters wide.

Propagation:

Type cutting.—Hardwood.

Time to initiate roots.—Approximately 3 to 5 days.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—Approximately 10 to 15 days.

Root description.—Fibrous, hairy.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching.

Plant description:

Commercial crop time.—Approximately 6 to 8 weeks from a rooted cutting to finish in an approximately 5 cm pot.

Size.—Height from soil level to top of plant plane: Approximately 4 m. Width: Approximately 3 m.

Branching habit.—Freely branching. Quantity of main branches per plant: Approximately 8.

Branch.—Strength: Strong, becomes woody with age. Length: Approximately 51.3 cm. Diameter: Approximately 2.3 cm. Length of central internode: Approximately 2.3 cm. Texture: Sparsely pubescent, becoming glabrous with age. Color of developing stems: N170B. Color of fully developed stems: 191B.

Foliage description:

General description.—Quantity of leaves per main branch: Ranges from 250 to 1000. Fragrance: None observed. Form: Simple. Arrangement: Alternate.

Leaves.—Aspect: Obtuse angle to stem. Shape: Lanceolate. Margin: Entire. Apex: Acuminate. Base: Cuneate. Venation pattern: Pinnate. Length of mature leaf: Approximately 8.3 cm. Width of mature leaf: Approximately 1.7 cm. Texture of upper and lower surfaces: Silky pubescence when young, becoming glabrous with age. Color of upper surface of young foliage: 150B with venation of 150B and midvein at base of 178B transitioning to 150B toward apex. Color of lower surface of young foliage: 152D with venation of 152D. Color of upper surface of mature foliage: N144B with venation of N144B. Color of lower surface of mature foliage: 144B with venation of 144B.

Petiole.—Length: Approximately 5.0 mm. Diameter: Approximately 1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 150B.

Stipule.—Length: Approximately 3.0 mm Width: Approximately 2.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: 150B.

Flowering description: No flowers have been observed.

Disease and pest resistance: Resistance to pathogens and pests common to *Salix* has not been observed.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Salix* plant named ‘Golden Sunshine’, substantially as herein shown and described.

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FIG. 1

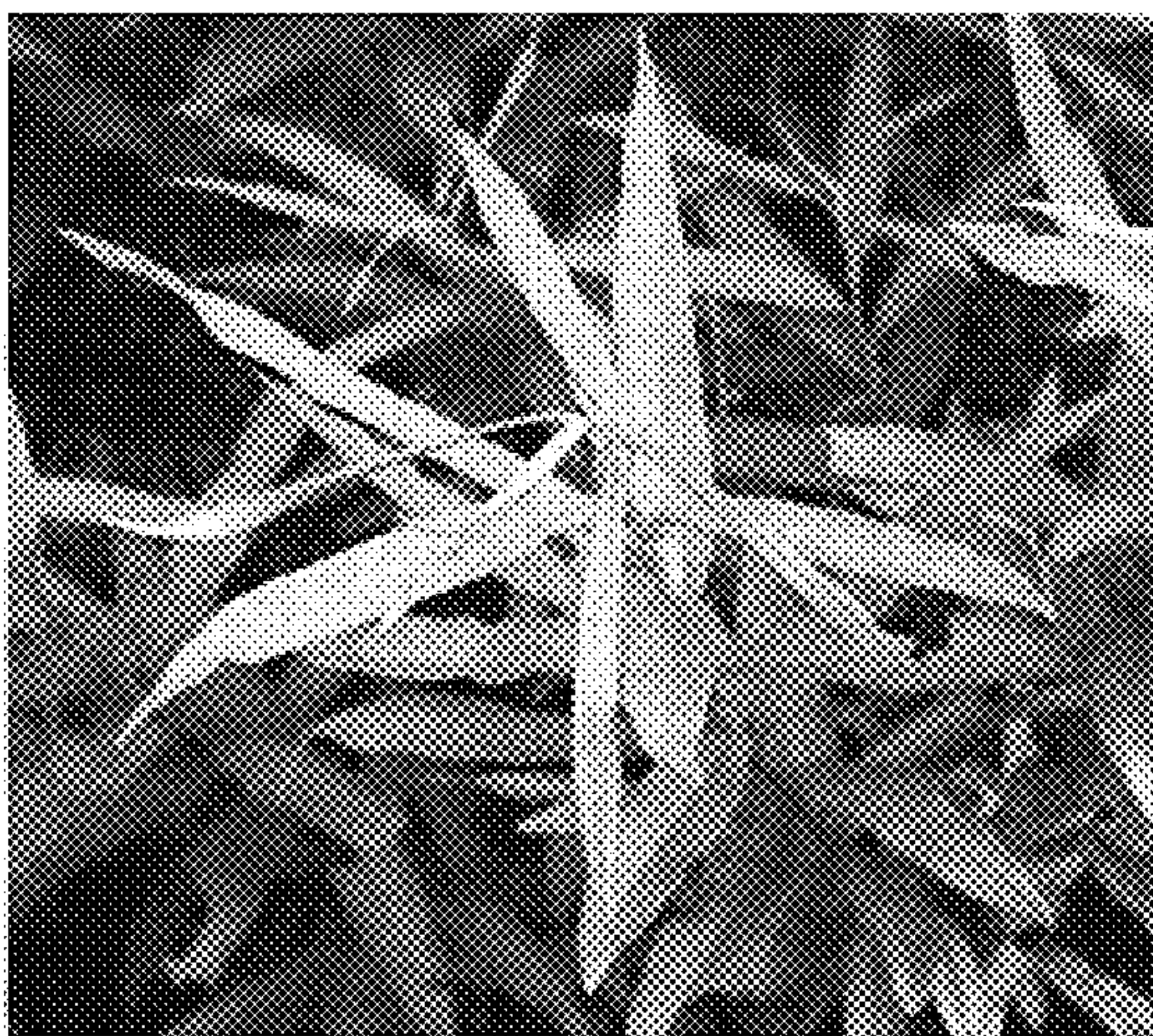


FIG. 2

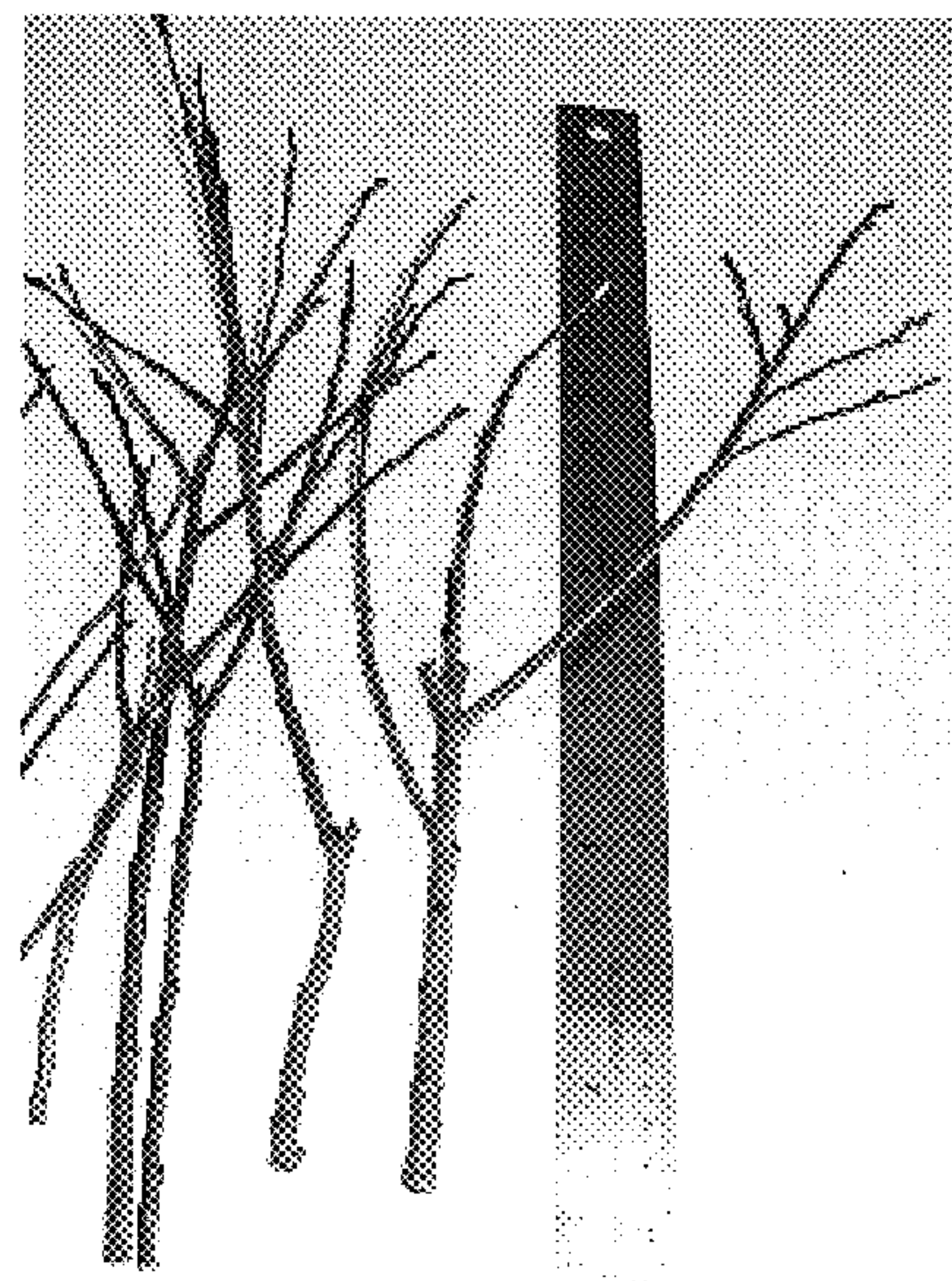


FIG. 3