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

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(54) **PEACH TREE NAMED ‘P.F. BIG GEORGE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus persica*  
Varietal Denomination: **P.F. Big George**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 43 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

*Primary Examiner*—Kent L Bell

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of peach, *Prunus persica*, tree  
having the following unique combination of desirable fea-  
tures:

1. The new and distinct variety of peach tree is of average  
height and of upright growth and a regular and produc-  
tive bearer of peaches;
2. Producing a very firm fruit having a resilient flesh tex-  
ture;
3. Blossoms are showy when in full bloom;
4. A substantially spherical fruit with skin of red color  
(50–80%) overlying yellow at the maturity of the fruit;
5. Very late maturing fruit of good taste; and
6. A very late maturing fruit of good storage and shelf life.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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Botanical classification: *Prunus persica*.

**ORIGIN OF VARIETY**

The new peach tree (hereinafter referred to as the ‘P.F. Big  
George’) was originated by Paul Friday in the experimental  
orchard, which is maintained for the purposes of breeding  
peach trees, located in Coloma, Mich. Coloma is located in  
the southwest section of Michigan, USDA Hardiness Zone  
6A, with observed temperature ranges of minus 12 degree  
Fahrenheit to 90 degree Fahrenheit, also with annual rainfall  
of about 40 inches.

In an ongoing mass selection breeding program, superior  
seedlings of unrecorded parentage are maintained as seed  
sources for the production of seeds which are collected and  
planted in mass. The seed producing parent trees are main-  
tained solely as proprietary trees for breeding purposes and  
have not been released from the experimental orchard,  
where such trees can be evaluated for there adaptability to  
local and regional growing conditions. Seeds resulting from  
open pollination of the trees in the experimental orchard are  
regularly planted in mass to produce new populations of  
seedlings, which are cultured and monitored to maturity.  
Trees with superior attributes are retained for further obser-  
vation and testing, and contribute seeds to advancing genera-  
tions of new populations of seedlings.

The tree of this application, ‘P.F. Big George’, was a  
single plant from one such seedling population, and was  
based on the numerous superior genetic attributes of this tree  
which are described in the botanical description to follow.  
While not comprehensive, the details of the botanical  
description to follow are believed to be a reasonably com-  
plete botanical description of the tree of this disclosure.

**ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION OF THE VARIETY**

The new and distinct variety of peach tree was asexually  
propagated by budding as performed in an experimental

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orchard located in Coloma, Mich. The asexual propagation  
demonstrates that such reproduction of the characteristics of  
the tree are consistent and are established and transmitted  
through succeeding asexual propagation.

**SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY**

The new and very distinct variety of peach tree is of aver-  
age height and of upright growth and a regular and produc-  
tive bearer of peaches. A distinguishing characteristic is that  
it is a very late maturing peach, 54 days after ‘Redhaven’  
(non-patented) in southwest Michigan. The blossoms are  
characterized as being showy. More specifically the blos-  
soms of ‘P.F. Big George’ peach tree have angularly spaced  
five-blossom petals projecting upwardly at an inclined angle  
so as to form a blossom, having about 1½" diameter, mea-  
sured across the blossoms. As the typical showy blossom as  
exemplified by ‘Loring’ (non-patented) peach.

The fruit at maturity is large, having flesh that is firm and a  
light yellow with red around the pit.

The skin is smooth having moderate to little down and is  
of dark red overlying yellow ground color. The yellow back-  
ground covers approximately twelve percent (12%) of its  
surface at maturity. At maturity, the peach is spherical hav-  
ing an average diameter of about 2¾".

The fruit produced by this tree has firm, and non-melting  
flesh, and thereby has the attendant resistance to blemishes  
and soft spots in harvesting, shipping and handling due to  
bruising. The firmness of the fruit flesh is sufficient to allow  
the flesh to yield and be restored when bumped or dropped  
without the resulting soft spots as would be experienced in  
most late season peaches of the market class. Thus, fruit of  
this tree remains more attractive to the ultimate buyer, the  
consumer, and thereby will command premium prices for  
late fresh desert market.

The fruit matures very late 54 days after ‘Redhaven’ (non-  
patented) peach in southwestern Michigan, it stores very



well in a refrigerated room at 33 degree Fahrenheit for up to 3 weeks without becoming dry or mealy, remaining very sweet 15 brix of sugar. The fruit as mentioned heretofore is of dark red overlying yellow which covers approximately twelve percent (12%) of its surface and has a very attractive appearance.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

In the accompanying drawing the top photograph shows the leaves of the plant depicting both upper and lower sides. A tape measure is included showing the length of a leaf.

The bottom photograph shows two (2) whole fruits with one bisected across the axis showing that it is freestone, and has a clear yellow flesh with red around the pit. A tape measure has been placed in the photograph showing that the fruit form this tree has the genetic capability to exceed two and three-quarters inches ( $2\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter.

#### DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY

The detailed botanical description of the foliage and fruit of the new variety of peach tree is based upon observations of the specimens grown at Coloma, Mich. with the color terminology, other than the terminology expressed in common terms, in accordance with the Pantone Matching System (PMS) as used internationally to identify printed colors.

Botanical classification: *Prunus persica* cultivar 'P.F. Big George'.

#### Tree:

- Age*.—Five (5) years.
- Height*.—Unpruned 12'.
- Width*.—Unpruned 8'.
- Size*.—Medium.
- Vigor*.—Vigorous.
- Density*.—Medium — moderate pruning required.
- Form*.—Upright.
- Production*.—Very good — sizes well with a minimum amount of thinning.
- Bearer*.—Consistent.
- Disease resistance to bacterial leaf spot and fruit spot*.—Very resistant.
- Rootstock*.—Grown on its own roots.

#### Trunk:

- Bark*.—Gray (Pantone #437).
- Size*.—Medium.
- Surface*.—Semi-smooth.
- Diameter*.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter at 18" above ground at 5 years of age.
- Lenticels*.—Semi-pronounced.
- Lenticels size*.— $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

#### Branches:

- Size*.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter at 6" from trunk.
- Surface*.—Semi-smooth.
- Lenticels per square inch*.—Seventeen (17).
- Lenticels color*.—(Pantone #172).
- Lenticels size*.— $\frac{1}{16}$ ".
- Crotch angles*.—45 degree angles.
- Branch color*.—Gray (Pantone #436).
- Internode length*.— $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

#### Leaves:

- Size*.—Average length 8", Average width 2".
- Form*.—Lanceolate — pointed.
- Thickness*.—Medium.
- Margin*.—Smooth.
- Leaf base shape*.—Acute.

*Leaf apex shape*.—Pointed.

*Petiole length*.— $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

*Gland shape*.—Oval.

*Gland color*.—Brown.

*Gland number*.—2 on each side of petiole.

*Leaf color*.—Adaxial (Top) or upper leaf surface green (pantone#371).

*Leaf color*.—Abaxial (Bottom) or bottom leaf surface (pantone #378).

#### Flowerbuds:

*Size*.— $\frac{3}{8}$ " long —  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.

*Bud shape*.—Ovate.

#### Flowers:

*Blooming period*.—Apr. 18, 2006 to Apr. 24, 2006.

*Bloom size*.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter.

*Bloom depth*.— $\frac{7}{16}$ " deep.

*Size of petals*.— $\frac{3}{4}$ " long —  $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide.

*Shape of petals*.—Ovate.

*Petal margins*.—Entire (smooth).

*Petal base shape*.—Pointed.

*Petal apex shape*.—Ovate.

*Petal color*.—Top — pink (pantone#218), Bottom — pink (pantone#218).

*Number of petals*.—Five (5).

*Sepal size*.— $\frac{1}{4}$ " long —  $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide.

*Sepal shape*.—Ovate.

*Sepal apex*.—Pointed.

*Sepal base*.—Flat.

*Sepal color*.—Pantone #216.

*Number of sepals*.—Five (5).

*Number of anthers*.—Sixteen (16).

*Anthers color*.—Pantone #146.

*Number of stamens*.—Sixteen (16).

*Stamen length*.— $\frac{7}{16}$ ".

*Stamen color*.—Pantone #215.

*Pistil length*.— $\frac{7}{16}$ ".

*Pistil color*.—Pantone #103.

*Pollen*.—Self-pollinating.

*Flower color*.—Pink Pantone #218.

*Number flowers per cluster*.—Two (2).

*Fragrance*.—Very fragrant.

#### Fruit:

*Maturity when described*.—Firm ripe.

*Date of first picking*.—Oct. 2, 2006.

*Date of last picking*.—Oct. 8, 2006.

*Size*.—Average 3".

*Form*.—Spherical.

*Suture*.—Medium.

*Weight*.—7.3–8 ounces.

#### Skin:

*Thickness*.—Medium as compared to the species.

*Texture*.—Medium as compared to the species.

*Tendency to crack*.—None.

*Down*.—Light (short as compared to the species).

*Color*.—About 50–80% Dark Red (Pantone #195) over yellow ground color (Pantone #141).

#### Flesh:

*Texture*.—Firm — non-melting, free of fiber.

*Ripens*.—Evenly.

*Flavor*.—Very good.

*Aroma*.—Pleasant.

*Eating quality*.—Excellent.

*Brix*.—Average of 15%.

*Color*.—Yellow (Pantone #142).

*Pit cavity color*.—Red (Pantone #202).

Stone:

*Type.*—Freestone.

*Size.*—1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long — 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide —  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick.

*Form.*—Ovate.

*Base.*—Straight.

*Apex.*—Pointed.

*Sides.*—Equal.

*Surface.*—Furrowed.

*Color.*—Reddish Brown (Pantone #187).

*Tendency to crack.*—None.

*Kernel.*—1 $\frac{3}{16}$ " long —  $\frac{9}{16}$ " wide —  $\frac{3}{16}$ " thick.

*Kernel taste.*—Bland taste.

Use: Dessert.

Shipping quality: Very good.

Keeping quality: Very good (up to three (3) weeks).

Disease resistance: The fruit is resistance to brown rot.

The tree and its fruit herein described may vary slightly as a result of differences in climatic or soil conditions or cultural practices under which the tree may be grown. It is to be understood that the description of the new variety as set forth herein is that of the tree grown under the ecological conditions prevailing at Coloma, Mich.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of peach tree substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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