



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Griesbach et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP19,913 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 14, 2009**

(54) **PEPPER NAMED ‘06C84’**

(50) Latin Name: *Capisum annuum*
Varietal Denomination: **06C84**

(75) Inventors: **Robert J. Griesbach**, Ellicott City, MD
(US); **John R. Stommel**, Glenwood, MD
(US)

(73) Assignee: **The United States of America, as
represented by the Secretary of
Agriculture**, Washington, DC (US)

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

(21) Appl. No.: **12/006,517**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 3, 2008**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./263.1**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./263.1,
Plt./263

See application file for complete search history.

Primary Examiner—Annette H Para

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—John D. Fado; G. Byron
Stover

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a new and distinct pepper plant
known as *Capisum annuum* L. ‘06C84’, which displays a
unique prostrate, indeterminate, spreading growth habit
unlike that of the standard pepper plants. Plants of ‘06C84’,
are characterized by black foliage, numerous small round
solitary black fruits that mature red, and a vigorous low pros-
trate growth habit.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Genus and species of the claimed plant: *Capisum
annuum*.

Variety denomination: ‘06C84’.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention concerns a new and distinct pepper plant
known as *Capisum annuum* L. ‘06C84’.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED PRIOR ART

Several commercial ornamental peppers are known. Orna-
mental peppers range in size and shape from short, compact
plants with piquin sized fruits, such as ‘Holiday Cheer’, to
plants as tall as 1 meter with full sized fruits, such as
‘NuMex Mirasol’. Nearly all ornamental peppers have been
primarily developed based upon unique fruit characteristics.
‘06C84’ may be distinguished from all of the ornamental
peppers known to us based upon its unique plant habitat.
‘06C84’ has a prostrate, indeterminate, spreading growth
habit. Other peppers may be dwarf, such as ‘Holiday Cheer’
and ‘Medusa’, but are compact and not spreading.

The characteristics of ‘06C84’ were compared to the most
similar plant on the market—‘Black Pearl’ (Plant Variety Pro-
tection Certificate number 200500020). ‘Black Pearl’ plants
are smaller (45 cm in diameter and 31 cm in height), with
larger (8.2 cm in length and 3.5 cm in width) but similar
shaped (simple, entire, symmetrical, and lanceolate with an
apiculate tip) leaves and leaf color (Royal Horticultural
Society Colour Chart number 202A). Flowers of ‘Black
Pearl’ are similar in size (average 2.1 cm) and color (Royal
Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 81A) to
‘06C84’. Fruit of ‘Black Pearl’ are very different in fruit
shape (round and average 1.6 cm in diameter) and mature
fruit color (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart num-
ber 46A) and are borne in clusters (5–7 fruit per cluster).

ORIGIN OF THE NEW PLANT

The pepper plant originated from a controlled cross at the
United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural

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Research Service greenhouses in Beltsville, Md. ‘06C84’ is
an F₁ selection derived from initial crosses between the
USDA pepper release ‘90C44’, a selection from the heir-
loom tabasco-type pepper ‘Royal Black’, and the heirloom
ornamental round-fruited type pepper ‘Christmas Cheer’.
The pedigree is complex (FIG. 1) and none of the parents
were protected. ‘06C84’ recombines many different charac-
teristics from all of the different parents and does not
resemble any single parent. For example plants of ‘Christ-
mas Cheer’ produce round yellow fruit that ripen red on
green foliated plants; while plants of ‘Royal Black’ produce
tabasco shape immature fruit that ripen to red on variegated
green and purple foliated plants. ‘90C44’ was derived from
interbreeding a diverse collection of small-fruited pungent
germplasm from India. Most of the seedlings in this cross
had green to purple variegated foliage. ‘90C44’ was unique
among the progeny in having solid purple foliage. The genes
for the black foliage of ‘06C84’ were derived from inter-
crosses of ‘90C44’ and ‘Royal Black’. Prostrate growth
habit and round fruit shape are derived from ‘Christmas
Cheer’. Early generation selections focused on prostrate
growth habit, followed by recurrent selection for intensity of
black foliage pigmentation. ‘06C84’ has a very unique pros-
trate and spreading grown habit combined with black foli-
age.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW PLANT

This application relates to a new and distinct pepper plant,
known as *Capisum annuum* ‘06C84’. The following charac-
teristic is outstanding. When compared to all other pepper
plants known to us, ‘06C84’ has a unique combination of
indeterminate and prostrate growth habitat combined with
black foliage.

The following characteristics are useful in distinguishing
this plant and can be useful for plant identification:

1. Plants produce greater than three basal shoots that grow
laterally, instead of upright forming a vigorous low

prostrate growth habit (39 cm height and 98 cm diameter).

2. Plants produce numerous small round (1.2 cm) upright oriented solitary black fruits that mature red.
3. Plants produce black foliage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show typical characteristics of the new plant.

FIG. 1 shows the parentage of '06C84'.

FIG. 2 shows a mature plant of '06C84' in September 2007.

FIG. 3 shows mature red and immature black fruit and black leaves.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new plant, together with the plant's morphological characteristics. The characteristics of the plant were compared to the similar 'Black Pearl' (HortScience, 40:1571-1573). The description is based upon plants grown in the field at Beltsville, Md. about 90 days post-transplanting.

'06C84' is a diploid ($2n=2x=24$) herbaceous annual. '06C84' has performed uniformly in multiple trials. Leaves and stems are glabrous and glossy. Leaves are simple, entire, symmetrical, and lanceolate with an apiculate tip. Mature leaves average 4.5 cm in length (range: 4.0 to 5.0 cm) and 2.4 cm in width (range: 2.3 to 2.5 cm). Petiole length averages 2.1 cm (range: 2.0 to 2.2 cm). Adaxial leaf surface is black (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 202A). 'Black Pearl' has larger, but similar shaped and colored leaves. 'Black Pearl' leaves average 8.2 cm in length (range: 7.4 to 11.0 cm) and 3.5 cm in width (range: 2.9 to 4.5 cm).

The plant habit of '06C84' is unique. Unlike the growth habit of all ornamental peppers known to us, '06C84' has a vigorous prostrate and indeterminate habit. Plants average 98 cm in diameter (range: 93 to 102 cm) and 39 cm in height (range: 38 to 43 cm). While 'Black Pearl' plants average 45 cm in diameter (range: 44 to 47 cm) and 31 cm in height (range: 29 to 34 cm).

'06C84' flowers are self-compatible, hermaphroditic, pentamerous and hypogynous. The purple flowers (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 81A) average 1.5 cm

in diameter (range: 1.3 to 1.8 cm) and have purple filaments and styles. Flowers of 'Black Pearl' are similar.

'06C84' fruits are solitary and are borne upright. There are approximately 738 fruit per plant and an average of 33 seed per fruit (range: 30 to 36). Immature fruits are black (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 202A) and mature to red (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 46A). Fruits are globe shaped and average 1.2 cm in diameter (range: 1.0 to 1.3 cm). The upright pedicels average 1.6 cm (range: 1.4 to 2.0 cm). Fruit are extremely pungent. Since '06C84' is intended for ornamental applications, Scoville pungency units were not determined. Fruit of 'Black Pearl' are similar in shape and color, but are larger and borne in clusters of 6 to 8. 'Black Pearl' fruit average 1.6 cm in diameter (range: 1.3 to 1.7 cm).

Typical of *C. annuum*, '06C84' is a warm-season crop requiring minimum daytime temperatures of 18 to 21 C. Optimal growth is achieved at higher temperatures up to 32 C. Plants grow poorly in the 5 to 15 C range and are frost-susceptible. Like most peppers, '06C84' is field tolerant to most pests and diseases, e.g., Fusarium wilt, verticillium wilt, aphids, and mites, based on field reaction, not in controlled testing.

'06C84' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative shoot cuttings over successive generations since 2005. Over that period no off-type of '06C84' has been observed or reported to us. Thus it is concluded that '06C84' is stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction. Plants were propagated at Beltsville, Md. and Dearing, Ga.

References

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- Stommel, J. R. and R. G. Griesbach. 2005. *Capsicum annuum* L. 'Black Pearl'. HortScience 40:1571-1573.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct pepper plant known as '06C84' as described herein, illustrated and identified by the characteristics set forth above.

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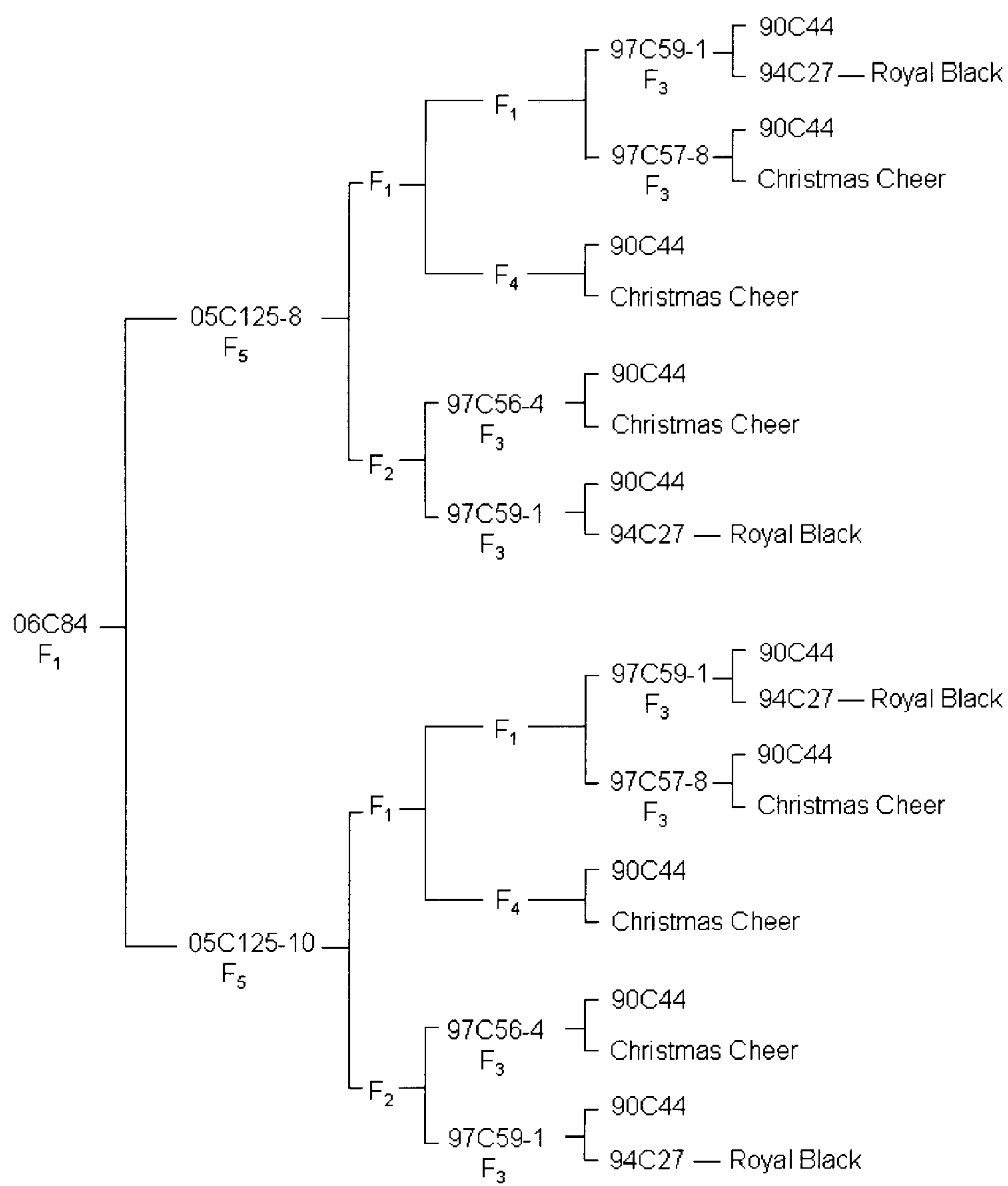
**Figure 1**



Figure 2



Figure 3