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Stommel et al.

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(54) **PEPPER NAMED ‘05C37-3’**

(50) Latin Name: *Capisum annuum*
Varietal Denomination: **05C37-3**

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

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

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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. ‘05C37-3’, which displays unique pumpkin-shaped orange fruit unlike that of the standard pepper plants. Plants of ‘05C37-3’ are characterized by black foliage and small pumpkin-shaped upright oriented solitary black fruits that mature orange.

3 Drawing Sheets

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

Variety denomination: ‘05C37-3’.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention concerns a new and distinct pepper plant known as *Capisum annuum* L. ‘05C37-3’.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED PRIOR ART

Several commercial ornamental peppers are known. Ornamental 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. ‘05C37-3’ may be distinguished from all of the ornamental peppers known to us based upon its unique fruit shape and foliage color. ‘05C37-3’ has pumpkin-shaped orange fruit on an upright plant with black foliage. Other peppers may have orange fruit, such as ‘Tangerine Dream’, but are not pumpkin-shaped. Other peppers may have black foliage, such as ‘Black Pearl’ but do not have orange pumpkin-shaped fruit.

The characteristics of ‘05C37-3’ were compared to the most similar plant on the market—‘Black Pearl’ (Plant Variety Protection 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 ‘05C37-3’. 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 number 46A) and are borne in clusters (5–7 fruit per cluster).

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ORIGIN OF THE NEW PLANT

The new pepper plant originated from a controlled cross at the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service greenhouses in Beltsville, Md. Black foliage is derived from intercrosses of the USDA germplasm release 90C44, a selection from the heirloom tabasco-type pepper, ‘Royal Black’ and the bell-type pepper ‘Summer Sweet 860’ and squash-type pepper ‘Tennessee Cheese’. The pedigree is complex (FIG. 1) and none of the parents were protected. ‘05C37-3’ recombines many different characteristics from all of the different parents and does not resemble any single parent. For example plants of ‘Tennessee Cheese’ produce flattened fasciated immature green fruit that ripen to 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; and plants of ‘Summer Sweet 860’ produce typical large ‘bell’ pepper shaped fruit which ripen to red. ‘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 ‘05C37-3’ were derived from intercrosses of ‘90C44’ and ‘Royal Black’. Pumpkin shaped fruit of ‘05C37-3’ was derived from an initial cross between the culinary squash-type pepper ‘Tennessee Cheese’ and the culinary bell-type pepper ‘Summer Sweet 860’. ‘05C37-3’ is an F₄ selection. Early generation selection focused on development of parental lines with small fasciated fruit and black foliage, respectively, followed by integration of these fruit and foliage characteristics into a single genotype in succeeding generations. ‘05C37-3’ has a very unique fruit shape that is not seen in any commercial or wild pepper.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW PLANT

This application relates to a new and distinct pepper plant known as *Capisum annuum* L. ‘05C37-3’. The following characteristic is outstanding: When compared to all other

pepper plants known to us, '05C37-3' has a unique combination of small orange-colored, pumpkin-shaped fruit on a plant with a compact upright growth habit 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 upright forming a compact growth habit (50 cm height and 88 cm diameter).
2. Plants produce numerous small pumpkin-shaped (1.7 cm long and 2.4 cm wide) upright oriented solitary black fruits that mature orange.
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 '05C37-3'.

FIG. 2 shows a mature plant of '05C37-3' in September 2007.

FIG. 3 shows mature orange 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.

'05C37-3' is a diploid ($2n=2x=24$) herbaceous annual. '05C37-3' 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 5.5 cm in length (range: 5.0 to 6.0 cm) and 2.5 cm in width (range: 2.5 to 2.6 cm). Petiole length averages 4.3 cm (range: 3.8 to 5.0 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 shape of '05C37-3' fruits is unique. Unlike the shape of all ornamental peppers known to us, '05C37-3' has pumpkin-shaped or fasciated (ridged) fruit that are black (RHS 202A) while immature and mature to orange (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 25A) in approximately 75 days post emergence. '05C37-3' fruits are solitary and are borne upright. Fruits average 2.4 cm in diameter (range: 2.4 to 2.5 cm) and 1.7 cm in length (range: 1.5 to 2.0 cm). The upright pedicels average 1.6 cm (range: 1.4 to 1.8

cm). There are approximately 96 fruit per plant and an average of 34 seed per fruit (range: 33 to 36). Fruit are extremely pungent. Since '05C37-3' is intended for ornamental applications, Scoville pungency units were not determined. Fruit of 'Black Pearl' are very different in shape and mature fruit color and borne in clusters of 6 to 8. 'Black Pearl' fruit are round and average 1.6 cm in diameter (range: 1.3 to 1.7 cm). Immature fruit of 'Black Pearl' are black (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 202A) and mature to red (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 46A).

'05C37-3' plants display a compact upright and indeterminate habit. Plants average 88 cm in diameter (range: 87 to 91 cm) and 50 cm in height (range: 47 to 52 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).

'05C37-3' flowers are self-compatible, hermaphroditic, pentamerous and hypogynous. The purple flowers (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart number 81A) average 2.1 cm in diameter (range: 2.0 to 2.2 cm) and have purple filaments and styles. Flowers of 'Black Pearl' are similar.

Typical of *C. annuum*, '05C37-3' 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, '05C37-3' 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.

'05C37-3' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative shoot cuttings over successive generations since 2005. Over that period no off-type of '05C37-3' has been observed or reported to us. Thus it is concluded that '05C37-3' is stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction. Plants were propagated at Beltsville, Md. and Dearing, Ga.

References

- Royal Horticultural Society. 1966. Royal Horticultural Society colour chart. Royal Hort. Soc., London, UK.
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- Stommel, J. R. and R. G. Griesbach. 1993. New ornamental *Capsicum* germplasm: Lines 90C40, 90C44, and 90C53. HortScience 28:858–859.
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What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct pepper plant known as '05C37-3' as described herein, illustrated and identified by the characteristics set forth above.

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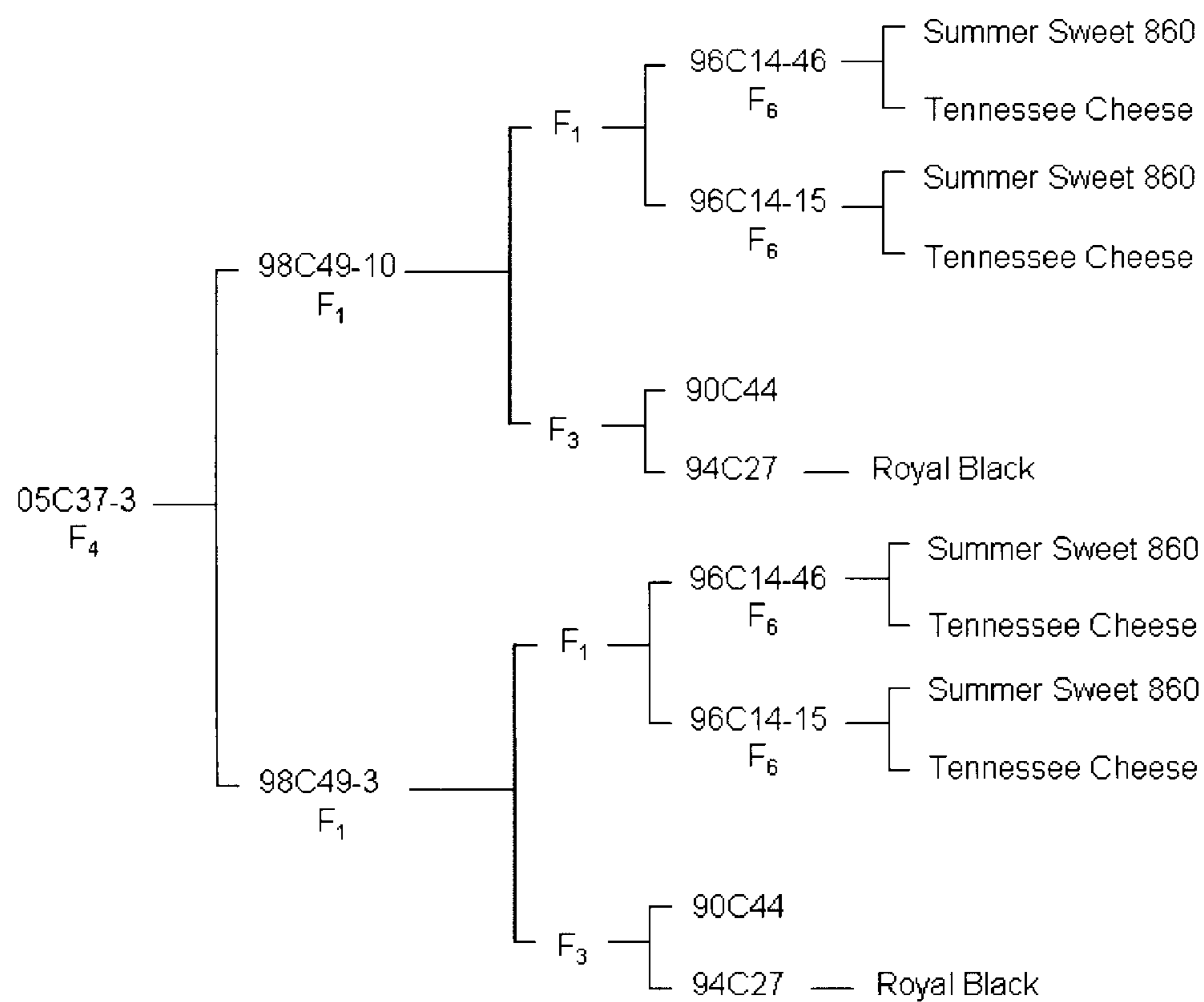


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3