



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

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(54) **PEACH TREE NAMED ‘P.F. 8 BALL WHITE’**

Primary Examiner — Kent L Bell

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus persica*
Varietal Denomination: **P.F. 8 Ball White**

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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 168 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./196**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./196
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of peach, *Prunus persica*, tree having the following unique combination of desirable features.

1. The new and distinct variety of peach tree is of spreading growth being a regular and productive bearer of large peaches having an average diameter of about 2½".
2. Producing a very firm fruit having a resilient flesh texture.
3. Blossoms are non-showy when in full bloom.
4. A substantially spherical fruit with skin of dark red color overlying Very light yellow (white) at maturity
5. An early season maturing fruit of good sweet taste, white flesh, and freestone.
6. An early season 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. 8 Ball White’} was originated by Paul Friday in the experiment 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 maintained 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 observation and testing, and contribute seeds to advancing generations of new populations of seedlings.

The tree of this application, ‘P.F. 8 Ball White’, was a single plant from one such a 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 complete 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 propagation.

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

The new and very distinct variety of peach tree is of moderate spreading growth and a regular and productive bearer of peaches. The ‘P.F. 8 Ball White’ peach tree bears a very freestone peach of a diameter of 2½" and up. The blossoms are characterized by being contracted or partially spread when in full bloom. At the same time petals of the blossoms are of lesser length than the length of petals of non-showy blossom as exemplified by the ‘Red Haven’ (non-patented) peach blossom.

The blossoms of the present peach tree at full bloom may be characterized as being non-showy. Notably the limbs of this variety has particularly long internodes and large leaves.

The fruit at maturity is large, having flesh that is firm and is a white with a mottling of red and red around the pit edges.

The fruit has a notably sweet taste for an early season peach.

The skin is smooth having moderate down and is of dark red color overlying very light yellow/white. At maturity the peach is spherical having an average diameter ranging between about 2½" to 2¾".

The fruit has a firm flesh and may be described as resilient to the extent that the flesh is yieldable and restorable to its original state when subjected to impact forces, which may cause permanent deformities in peaches of commercial varieties. The firmness of the fruit facilitates handling and packaging of the peaches without damaging the same for shipment. This results in less spoilage and also increases the shelf life.

The fruit matures in the early part of the peach growing season in southwestern Michigan. The fruit as mentioned

heretofore is of dark red color overlying light yellow/white 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 upper and lower sides. A tape measure is included showing the length of a leaf.

The bottom photograph shows three (3) whole fruits with one bisected across the axis showing the extent of the white flesh with the mottling of red and the red around the pit. A tape measure is included to show the good size of this fruit.

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. 8 Ball White'.

Tree:

Age.—Four (4) years.
Height.—Unpruned 10'.
Width.—Unpruned 8'.
Size.—Medium.
Vigor.—Vigorous.
Density.—Medium.
Form.—Spreading.
Production.—Very good.
Bearer.—Regular.
Disease resistance to bacterial leaf and fruit spot.—Very resistant.

Rootstock.—Grown in its own roots.

Trunk:

Bark.—Gray (402).
Size.—Medium.
Surface.—Semi smooth.
Diameter.—3" diameter — 18" above ground at 3 years of age.
Lenticels.—Pronounced.
Lenticels color.—Pantone # 475.
Lenticel size.—1/8" long, 1/32" wide, 1/64" thick.
Lenticels per square inch.—Eleven (11).

Branches:

Size.—Medium 1 3/4" diameter 8" from trunk.
Surface.—Semi-smooth.
Lenticels per square inch.—Ten (10).
Lenticels color.—Pantone # 143.
Lenticels size.—1/8" long, 1/32" wide, 1/64" thick.
Crotch angles.—45 degrees angles.
Branch color.—Brown (405).
Internodes length.—1 1/8" (long internodes).

Leaves:

Size.—Average length 7" average width 1 3/8".
Form.—Lanceolate — pointed.
Thickness.—Medium.
Texture.—Glabrous.
Margin.—Serrated.
Leaf base shape.—Acute.
Leaf apex shape.—Pointed.
Petiole length.—3/8" Petiole diameter 1/16".
Petiole color.—Green (Pantone # 371).
Gland.—0-3 on either side of the petiole.

Gland shape.—Oval.

Gland color.—Reddish.

Leaf color.—Adaxial (Top) or upper leaf surface — green (350).

Leaf color.—Abaxial (Bottom) or bottom leaf surface — green (378).

Stipules.—None present.

Flower buds:

Size.—1/2" long — 1/4" wide.

Bud shape.—Ovate.

Bud color.—Pantone # 237.

Flowers:

Blooming period.—Early May in Southwestern Michigan.

Bloom size.—1" diameter.

Bloom depth.—3/8" deep.

Size of petals.—1/2" long — 5/16" wide.

Shape of petals.—Cupped.

Petal margins.—Entire (smooth).

Petal base shape.—Pointed.

Petal apex shape.—Ovate.

Petal color.—Both upper and lower surface (Pantone # 203).

Petal size.—1/2" long, 5/16" wide.

Number of petals.—Five (5).

Sepal size.—1/4" long — 1/8" wide.

Sepal shape.—Slightly cupped.

Sepal apex.—Pointed.

Sepal base.—Flat.

Sepal color.—Both upper and lower surface (Pantone # 216).

Number of sepals.—Five (5).

Number of anthers.—22.

Anther color.—Pantone # 187.

Number of stamens.—22.

Stamen length.—3/8".

Stamen color.—Pantone # 224.

Pistil length.—1/2" (tip bent over slightly).

Pistil color.—Pantone # 393.

Pollen.—Present.

Flower color.—Pink (Pantone # 203).

Pedicel length.—1/4" diameter — 1/32".

Pedicel color.—Reddish Brown (Pantone # 216).

Number flowers per cluster.—2.

Fragrance.—Very nice.

Fruit:

Maturity when described.—Firm ripe.

Date of first picking.—July 25th in Southwestern Michigan.

Date of last picking.—July 30th in Southwestern Michigan.

Size.—Average diameter 2 1/2".

Form.—Spherical.

Suture.—Not Pronounced — stays firm.

Weight.—6.7 oz.

Skin:

Thickness.—Medium as compared to the species.

Texture.—Medium as compared to the species (non-fibred).

Tendency to crack.—None.

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

Tenacious.—Skin is tenacious to skin.

Color.—About 96% red (Pantone # 201) over white (Pantone # 100).

Flesh:
 Texture.—Firm, non-melting free of fiber.
 Ripens.—Evenly.
 Flavor.—Excellent.
 Aroma.—Pleasant, mild.
 Eating quality.—Excellent.
 Brix.—Average of 14%.
 Color.—White Pantone # 100.
 Pit cavity color.—Red on edges Pantone # 206.

Stone:
 Type.—Freestone.
 Size.—1³/₈" long — 1" wide — ⁵/₈" thick.
 Form.—Ovate.
 Base.—Straight.
 Apex.—Pointed.
 Sides.—Uneven.
 Surface.—Furrowed.
 Color.—Brown # 138.
 Tendency to crack.—None.

Kernel.—⁵/₈" long — ⁵/₁₆" wide — ¹/₈" thick.
 Kernel taste.—Bland.
 Kernel form.—Ovate.
 Kernel viability.—Is very viable.
5 *Kernel color*.—Brown (Pantone # 465).
 Use: Dessert.
 Shipping quality: Very good.
 Keeping quality: Very good (up to three (3) weeks).
 Disease resistance: The fruit is resistance to brown rot.
10 The tree and its fruit herein described may vary slight 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 condi-
15 tions 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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