



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

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(54) **CHOKECHERRY TREE NAMED ‘P002S’**

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus* spp.  
Varietal Denomination: **P002S**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of *Prunus* spp. chokecherry tree  
named ‘P002S’ that is characterized by the complete absence  
of suckering; strong upright, uniformly broad and oval, single  
trunk tree form; vibrant and glossy leaves that emerge green  
and mature into dark reddish-purple foliage; and strong  
hybrid vigor.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:  
The chokecherry variety of this invention is botanically iden-  
tified as *Prunus* spp.

Variety denomination: The variety denomination is  
‘P002S’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct tree  
variety of *Prunus* spp. more commonly known as  
chokecherry, which can be grown for use as a single trunk,  
ornamental shade tree.

Chokecherry plants are well known in the industry for their  
shrub-like appearance and for dominant root suckering lead-  
ing to invasive growth habit. This growth habit has limited the  
use of chokecherry in the industry as an ornamental plant  
despite the other preferred characteristics of chokecherry  
plants, namely attractive burgundy foliage, thickets of  
branches for privacy and for wildlife habitat. The present  
invention, in contrast, meets the needs of providing qualities  
of a preferred ornamental chokecherry plant with the distinc-  
tion of the complete absence of suckering; strong upright,  
uniformly broad and oval single trunk tree form; large,  
vibrant and glossy leaves that emerge green and mature into  
dark reddish-purple foliage; and strong hybrid vigor.

The present invention is a product of a discovery and selec-  
tion in a cultivated seed orchard located in Helena, Mont. in  
July 1998 and subsequent propagation of the softwood cut-  
tings from discovered plant by the inventor. The surrounding  
plants where the invention was found demonstrated charac-  
teristics typical of chokecherry plants in demonstration of  
prevalent suckering characteristics and multi-stem growth  
habit typical of the red leaf form of *Prunus virginiana*, which  
is in contrast to the discovered present invention.

While parentage of the present invention is unknown, the  
surrounding plants located nearby where the present inven-

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tion was discovered may be the result of a conventional  
hybridization between the neighboring cultivated plants of  
the red leafed forms of *Prunus virginiana* and possibly *Pru-  
nus padus*. *Prunus virginiana* provides the distinctive red leaf  
coloration; therefore its contribution in the parentage of the  
claimed plant is considered probable. Patent status of the  
plants in the cultivated area is unknown.

Since the lineage of the present invention is unknown,  
comparison with known commercial varieties is drawn gen-  
erally to the commercially available, related plant species.  
‘P002S’ differs primarily from red leafed forms of *Prunus  
virginiana* plants by demonstrating the complete absence of  
root suckering as well as a strong upright, uniformly broad  
and oval, single trunk tree form; whereas *Prunus virginiana*  
exhibit extensive root suckering and multi-stem branching.  
Furthermore, ‘P002S’ is distinct from *Prunus padus* through  
the demonstration of non-typical smooth, glossy leaves that  
emerge green and mature into reddish-purple, and hybrid  
vigor.

The inventor selected and transported softwood cuttings of  
the discovered plant in July 1998 to another cultivated area in  
Fort Collins, Colo. where the present invention was observed  
for 10 years before beginning asexual propagation through  
vegetative cuttings in the spring of 2008.

The present invention has been asexually propagated in a  
controlled nursery environment for five generations through  
vegetative cuttings under the direction of the inventor. The  
generations of the new variety, ‘P002S’, have demonstrated  
that the combination of characteristics disclosed are stable  
and firmly fixed and are retained true to type through succes-  
sive generations of asexual reproduction. Additional testing  
has been conducted in nurseries in Minnesota (St. Paul) and  
Oregon (both Boring and Dayton), all beginning in 2009.  
Observations and characteristic data disclosed herein were  
collected in the summer of 2012 in Fort Collins, Colo.

Plant Breeder's Rights for this variety have not been applied for and 'P002S' has not been made publicly available or sold more than a year before the filing date of this application.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and represent the characteristics of the new Chokecherry tree variety 'P002S'. These traits in combination distinguish this variety from all other commercial varieties known to the inventor.

1. Complete absence of root suckering;
2. Strong upright, uniformly broad and oval, single trunk tree form;
3. Large, vibrant and glossy leaves that emerge green and mature into dark reddish-purple foliage; and
4. Strong hybrid vigor.

Plants of the present invention have not been observed under all possible environmental and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions, for example, with fluctuation in temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH(S)

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new and distinct Chokecherry tree showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of conventional photography. Colors in the photograph may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Chokecherry tree.

FIGS. 1 through 5 were taken in the summer of 2012 of the present invention, a tree approximately 13 years of age, in a nursery in Fort Collins, Colo., grown under conditions which approximate those generally used in commercial practice.

FIG. 1 demonstrates distinguishing characteristics of the present invention with the complete absence of root suckering; strong upright, uniformly broad and oval, single trunk tree form, and the reddish-purple foliage of late summer.

FIG. 2 demonstrates the point in time when most of the foliage has turned purple yet the tips remain green, as well the complete absence of root suckering.

FIG. 3 demonstrates the tree in spring, with full bloom, green stage foliage and the complete absence of root suckering.

FIG. 4 shows a close-up of the flowers.

FIG. 5 shows a close-up of the large, vibrant and glossy leaves in the dark reddish-purple stage.

### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new variety 'P002S'. Data was collected from a tree approximately 13 years old, presently growing outdoors in a nursery in Fort Collins, Colo. The growing conditions approximate those generally used in commercial practice. The color determinations are in accordance with the 2005 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Mini Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural Society (London, England), except

where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used and color readings were observed under natural, outdoor light.

### Classification:

*Family*.—Rosaceae.

*Botanical*.—*Prunus* spp.

*Common*.—Chokecherry.

Parentage: Unknown.

Propagation: Vegetative cuttings.

### Tree:

*Ploidy*.—Diploid.

*Tree height, unpruned (m)*.—7.92 m.

*Tree vigor*.—Moderately vigorous.

*Tree shape*.—Upright, oval.

*Growth habit*.—Upright, oval.

*Canopy width (m)*.—6.00 m.

*Canopy height (m)*.—6.40 m.

*Canopy volume, swag (m<sup>3</sup>)*.—475.00 m<sup>3</sup>.

*Canopy shape*.—Upright, broad and oval.

### Trunk and branches:

*Trunk texture*.—Smooth.

*Trunk diameter (cm)*.—17.5 cm taken at 30.48 cm above the ground.

*Trunk bark color*.—RHS Grey Group 201 C.

*Branch length (m)*.—3.50 m from trunk to branch tip.

*Branch texture*.—Smooth.

*Branch color*.—RHS Grey Group 201 B.

*Branch arrangement*.—Alternate.

*Crotch angle from main trunk*.—Strong, greater than 60°.

### Leaves:

*Size (lamina average)*.—a. Length (mm): 98.0 mm. b.

Width (mm): 55.0 mm.

*Type*.—Simple.

*Shape*.—Broad elliptic.

*Apex*.—Acuminate.

*Base*.—Broad cuneate to rounded.

*Margin*.—Serrulate.

*Cross section*.—Concave.

*Leaf blade length (mm)*.—98.0 mm.

*Leaf blade width (mm)*.—55.0 mm.

*Leaf coloration at emergence*.—a. Upper surface color: RHS Green Group 141D. b. Lower surface color: RHS Green Group 138D.

*Fall foliage coloration*.—RHS 183A (purple brown).

*Surface*.—a. Upper surface texture: Glabrous. b. Lower surface texture: Glaucous with reticulate venation. a. Upper surface color: RHS Brown Group 200 A. b. Lower surface color: RHS Brown Group 200 A.

*Venation*.—Reticulate.

*Petiole*.—a. Shape: Long glandular. b. Length (mm): 21.0 mm. c. Width (mm): 2.0 mm. d. Color: RHS Greyed Red Group 178 A. e. Thorns, Spines: Absent.

### Flowers:

*Inflorescence type*.—Raceme.

*Average inflorescence size*.—a. Diameter (mm): 65.0 mm. b. Length (mm): 200.0 mm.

*Age of tree of first bloom*.—5 year from rooted cutting.

*Bloom habit*.—Once annually in spring.

*Time of year for first bloom*.—Late April to early May.

*Length of blooming time (days)*.—7 to 10 days for petal drop.

*Structure*.—Complete.  
*Average size*.—a. Length (mm): 8.0 to 9.0 mm. b. Width (mm): 12.0 mm.  
*Arrangement*.—Typical.  
*Fragrance*.—Sweetly fragrant.  
*Peduncle*.—a. Average length (mm): 190.0 mm. b. Surface texture: Smooth. c. Color: RHS 141D.  
*Bud*.—a. Shape: Narrowly conical. b. Length (mm): 5.0 to 7.0 mm. c. Width (mm): 2.0 to 3.0 mm. d. Color: RHS Brown Group 200 D.  
*Petal*.—Number, average: 5. Length (mm): 3.0 to 4.0 mm. Width (mm): 3.0 to 4.0 mm. Shape: Irregular, rounded. Apex shape: Irregular, obcordate. Base shape: Acute. Margin: Crinkled. Color: a. Upper Surface: RHS White Group 155 D. b. Lower Surface: RHS White Group 155 D.  
*Sepals*.—Number (per flower): 5. Shape: Acute. Surface texture: Smooth. Color: RHS 141D. Length (mm): 1.0 to 1.5 mm. Width (mm): 1.5 to 2.0 mm. Apex: Acute. Margin: Smooth.  
*Pedicel*.—Surface texture: Smooth. Length (mm): 10.0 to 15.0 mm. Width (mm): 1.0 mm. Color: RHS Greyed-Yellow Group 160 B.  
*Calyx*.—Present.  
 Reproductive organs:  
*Fertility*.—Self-fertile.  
*Stamen*.—a. Number: 20 to 22. b. Length (mm): 2.0 to 3.0 mm. c. Color: RHS White Group 155 D.  
*Anther*.—a. Length (mm): Less than 1.0 mm. b. Width (mm): Less than 1.0 mm. c. Color: RHS Yellow Group 12 D. d. Filament length (mm): 1.0 to 3.0 mm.

*Pistil*.—a. Number: 1. b. Length (mm): 2.0 mm. c. Color: RHS Greyed-Yellow Group 162 C.  
*Style*.—a. Length (mm): 1.0 mm. b. Width (mm): Less than 1.0 mm. c. Color: RHS Greyed-Yellow Group 160 B.  
*Ovary*.—a. Shape: Ovate. b. Diameter (mm): 1.0 mm. c. Color: RHS Greyed-Yellow Group 160 A.  
*Pollen color*.—RHS Yellow Group 12 D.  
 Fruit:  
*Time of season when first appears*.—Early July.  
*Size*.—a. Length (mm): 5.0 to 6.0 mm. b. Width (mm): 4.0 to 5.0 mm.  
*Shape*.—Ovoid.  
*Color*.—RHS Black Group 202 A.  
 Best mode growing conditions:  
*Soil conditions*.—Highly adaptable to various non-compacted soil types.  
*Water use/drought tolerance*.—Moderately xeric while performing best with bi-monthly deep irrigation.  
*Fertilization*.—a. Propagation: None required but a starter solution of 100 ppm Nitrogen is beneficial during misting. b. Maintenance: Once rooted 100 ppm Nitrogen from a balanced water soluble blend of NPK with each irrigation during the growing season.  
 Insects and disease: Susceptible to Tent Caterpillar, Black Knot.  
 I claim:  
 1. A new and distinct variety of chokecherry tree having the characteristics substantially as described and illustrated herein.

\* \* \* \* \*



**FIG. 1**



**FIG. 2**

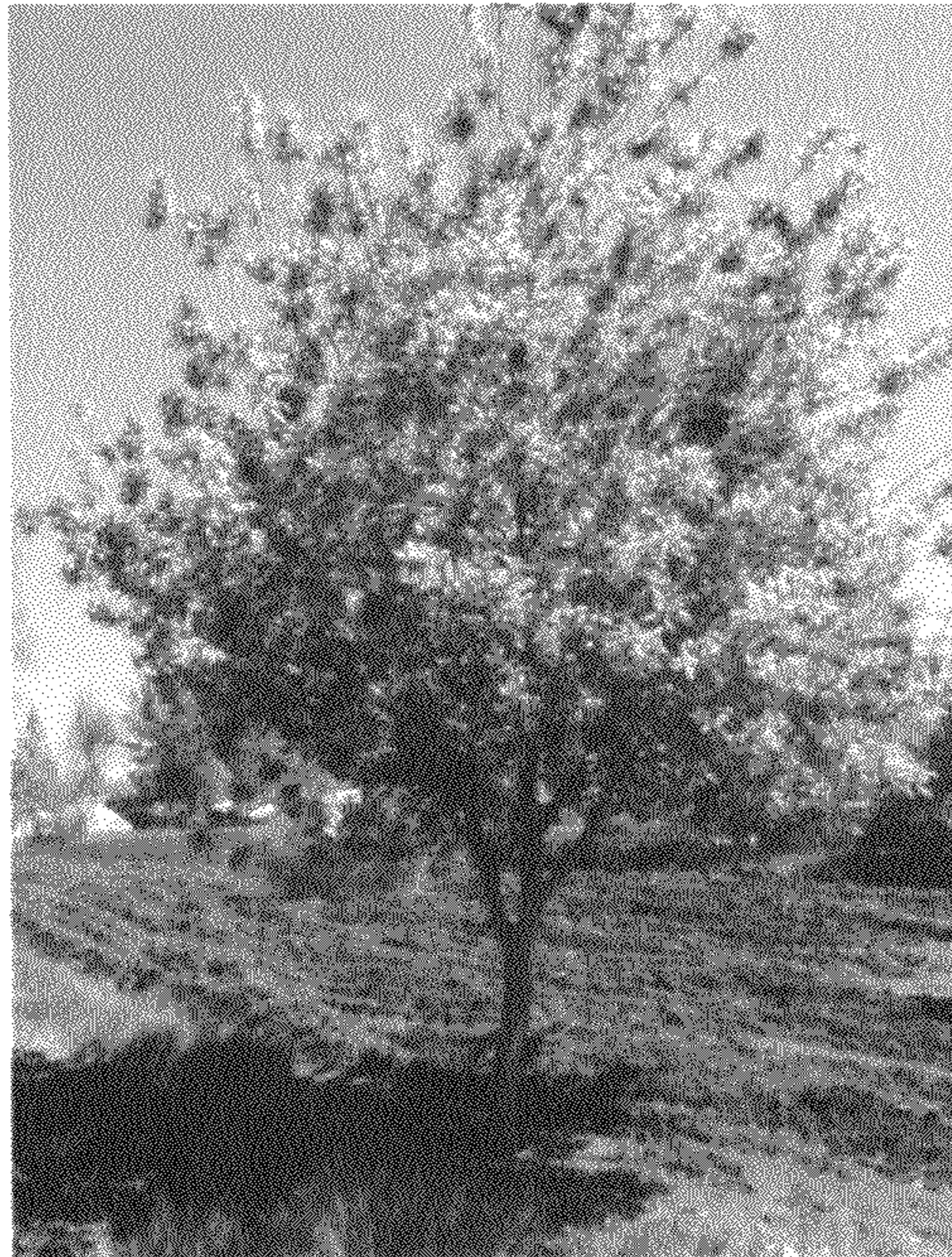
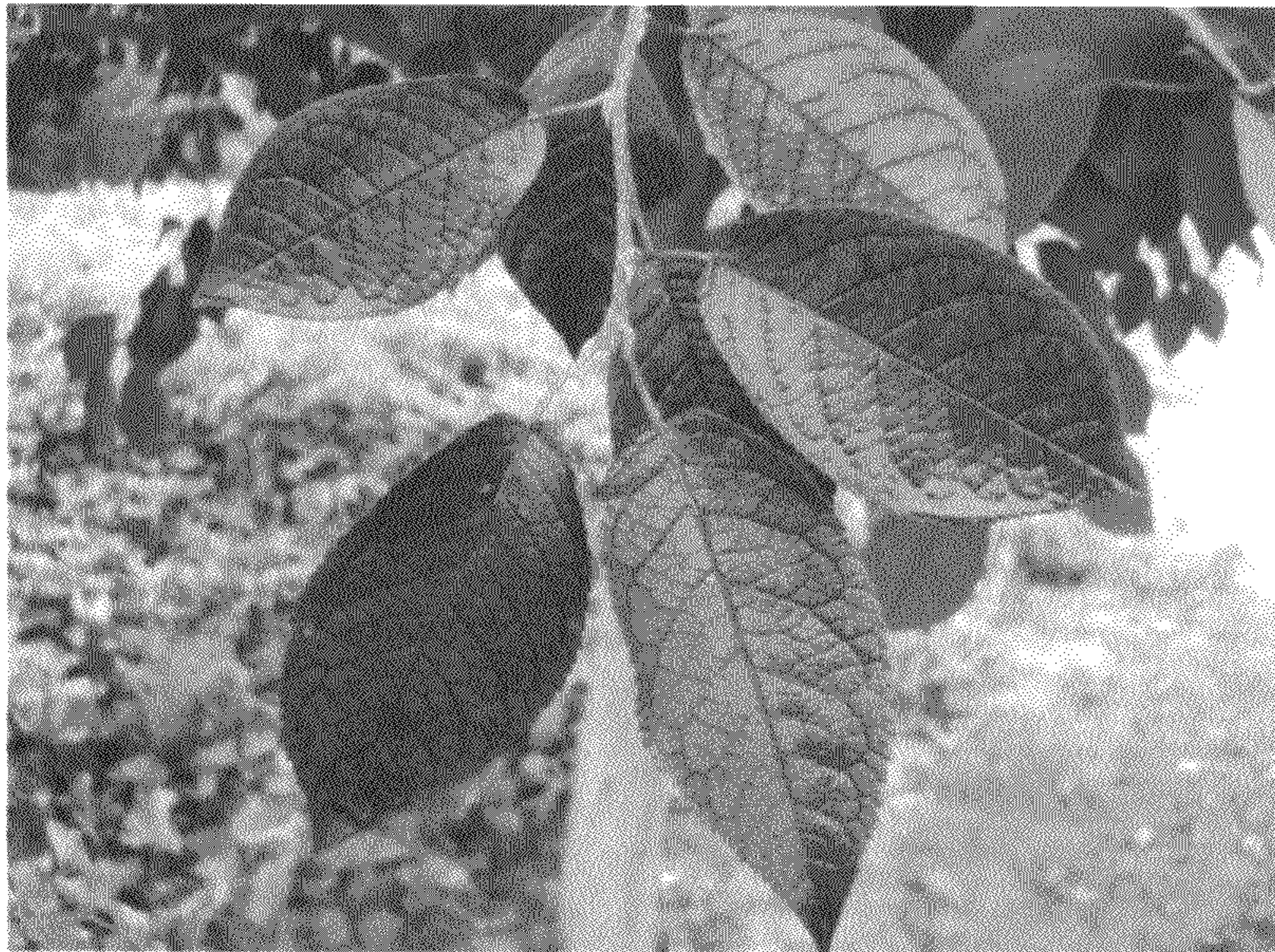


FIG. 3



FIG. 4



**FIG. 5**