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Ackerman et al.

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(54) **STRAWBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘PE-6.2036’**

(50) Latin Name: *Fragaria ananassa*
Varietal Denomination: **PE-6.2036**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to a new and distinct variety of straw-
berry plant named ‘PE-6.2036’. This new strawberry plant
named ‘PE-6.2036’ is primarily adapted to the growing con-
ditions of the central coast of California, and is primarily
characterized by its medium fruit size that is red in color,
cordiform in shape with medium to strong gloss and very
good flavor, seeds that tend to be level with to below the
surface, medium to large plant size, with medium to dark
green foliage, and medium to long fruiting trusses that are
generally held even with the plant.

4 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Fragaria ananassa.

Variety denomination: ‘PE-6.2036’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct straw-
berry variety named ‘PE-6.2036’. This new variety is a result
of a controlled cross made in 2006 in an ongoing breeding
program between strawberry variety designated ‘PS-5096’
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 20,291) and strawberry selection design-
ated ‘PE-89.089’ (unpatented). Due to the combining of the
reciprocal seed lots, it is unknown as to which parent variety
is the seed parent and which parent variety is the pollen
parent. The variety is botanically known as *Fragaria anan-*
assa.

The seedling resulting from the aforementioned cross was
selected from a controlled breeding plot in Ventura County,
Calif. in the fall of 2008. After its selection, the new variety
was asexually propagated by stolons in both San Joaquin
County, Calif. and Siskiyou County, Calif. The new variety
was extensively tested over the next several years in fruiting
fields in Ventura County, Calif. This propagation has demon-
strated that the combination of traits disclosed herein as char-
acterizing the new variety are fixed and remain true to type
through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

‘PE-6.2036’ is primarily adapted to the climate and grow-
ing conditions of the central coast of California. The nearby
Pacific Ocean provides the needed humidity and moderate
temperatures to produce a strong vigorous plant and maintain
fruit quality during the fall production months.

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The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be unique characteristics of ‘PE-6.2036’,
which in combination distinguish this strawberry plant as a
new and distinct variety:

1. Medium fruit size that is red in color, cordiform in shape
with medium to strong gloss and very good flavor;
2. Seeds that tend to be level with to below the surface;
3. Medium to large plant size, with medium to dark green
foliage; and
4. Medium to long fruiting trusses that are generally held
even with the plant.

The strawberry variety that is believed to be most closely
related to the new variety ‘PE-6.2036’ is ‘VALOR’ (U.S.
Plant Pat. No. 20,394). In side-by-side comparisons to the
similar strawberry variety ‘VALOR’, ‘PE-6.2036’ differs by
the following combination of characteristics as described in
Table 1.

TABLE 1

COMPARISON WITH THE STANDARD VARIETY		
Characteristic	‘PE-6.2036’	‘VALOR’ (US PP20,394)
Fruit color --	Red.	Ranges from red to dark red.
Fruit gloss --	Ranges from medium to strong.	Medium.
Fruit flavor --	Very good.	Good.
Plant size --	Ranges from medium to large.	Medium.
Fruiting truss length--	Ranges from medium to long.	Ranges from medium to short.

For identification, a series of molecular markers have been determined for this new variety.

‘PE-6.2036’ differs from its parents, ‘PS-5096’ and ‘PE-89.089’, by the following combination of characteristics as described in Table 2.

TABLE 2

COMPARISON WITH THE PARENT VARIETIES			
Characteristic	‘PE-6.2036’	‘PS-5096’	‘PE-89.089’
Type of bearing --	Everbearing.	Summer bearing.	Everbearing.
Plant size --	Medium.	Small.	Medium.
Fruit size --	Medium.	Small.	Very small.
Skin firmness --	Good.	Very good.	Weak.
Fruit color --	Red.	Ranges from orange red to red.	Ranges from red to dark red.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance of typical specimens of the new strawberry variety ‘PE-6.2036’, at various stages of development as true as it is reasonably possible with color reproductions of this type. Color in the photographs may differ slightly from the color value cited in the botanical descriptions which accurately describe the color of ‘PE-6.2036’. The depicted plant and plant parts of the new strawberry variety ‘PE-6.2036’ are between three and four months old. The photographs were taken in Ventura County, Calif.:

FIG. 1 shows typical fruiting field characteristics of ‘PE-6.2036’, taken in the month of November 2013;

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the typical leaf structure of ‘PE-6.2036’, taken in the month of November 2013;

FIG. 3 shows typical mature and immature field fruit of ‘PE-6.2036’, taken in the month of October 2013; and

FIG. 4 shows typical internal and external mature fruit characteristics of ‘PE-6.2036’, taken in the month of November 2013.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The new variety ‘PE-6.2036’ has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The characteristics of the new variety ‘PE-6.2036’ may vary in detail, depending upon variations in environmental factors, including weather (temperature, humidity and light intensity), day length, soil type and location. In addition, the characteristics of any parental variety or comparison variety included in Tables 1 and 2 of the present invention may vary in detail, depending upon variations in environmental factors, including weather (temperature, humidity and light intensity), day length, soil type and location.

The aforementioned photographs, together with the following description of the new variety ‘PE-6.2036’, unless otherwise noted, are based on observations taken during the 2013 growing season in Ventura County, Calif. These measurements and ratings were taken from plants of ‘PE-6.2036’ dug from a low-elevation nursery located in San Joaquin County, Calif. during January 2013 and planted six months later in Ventura County, Calif. The approximate age of the observed plants is between three and four months. Yield observations including average weight and marketable yield, along with fruit quality characteristics including soluble solids, are averaged from three years of data collected from the

2010 through 2012 growing seasons. Flower measurements and characteristics are from secondary flowers unless otherwise noted. Fruit characteristics and measurements are from secondary fruit unless otherwise noted.

Where noted, color terminology follows The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, London (2007).

The following characteristics describe fruit, plant, stolon, foliage, fruiting truss, flower, and pest and disease characteristics of the new strawberry ‘PE-6.2036’.

Fruit characteristics:

- Color of mature fruit.*—RHS 45A (red).
- Color of internal flesh.*—RHS 44A (medium red).
- Color of core.*—RHS 44D (medium red).
- Length (cm).*—3.8.
- Width (cm).*—3.7.
- Size.*—Medium.
- Length/width ratio.*—1.03 (as long as broad).
- Calyx diameter (cm).*—4.3.
- Average weight (gm).*—22.5.
- Achene color, shaded side.*—RHS 160A (greyed yellow group).
- Achene color, sun-exposed side.*—RHS 185A (greyed purple group).
- Achene weight (mg).*—0.66.
- Achenes per berry.*—353.
- Marketable yield (gm/plant).*—670.
- Predominant shape.*—Cordate (cordiform).
- Difference in shape between primary and secondary fruit.*—Ranges from slight to moderate.
- Band without achenes.*—Absent or very narrow.
- Evenness of surface.*—Slightly uneven.
- Evenness of color.*—Even or very slightly uneven.
- Glossiness.*—Ranges from medium to strong.
- Insertion of achenes.*—Ranges from below surface to level with surface.
- Position of calyx attachment.*—Inserted.
- Attitude of sepals.*—Outward.
- Size of calyx in relation to fruit diameter.*—Slightly larger.
- Adherence of calyx (when fully ripe).*—Strong.
- Firmness of flesh.*—Ranges from medium to firm.
- Distribution of red color of the flesh.*—Marginal and central.
- Hollow center expression.*—Weak.
- Flavor.*—Very good.
- Soluble solids (% Brix).*—8.2.
- Time of first flowering.*—Early.
- Time of first harvesting.*—Early.
- Harvest period.*—Late September to mid December.
- Harvest maturity.*—Early season.
- Type of bearing.*—Fully remontant (non-flowering runners).

Plant characteristics:

- Height (cm).*—23.2.
- Spread (cm).*—41.8.
- Size.*—Ranges from medium to large.
- Habit.*—Semi-upright.
- Density.*—Medium.
- Vigor.*—Strong.

Stolon characteristics:

- Color.*—RHS 146C (yellow green group).
- Anthocyanin coloration.*—RHS 181A (greyed red group).
- Anthocyanin intensity.*—Medium.
- Pubescence.*—Medium.

Attitude of hairs.—Strongly outward.

Average quantity (nursery).—Medium.

Average diameter at bract (mm).—3.9 (thick).

Terminal leaflet characteristics:

Length (cm).—8.3.

Width (cm).—7.7.

Length/width ratio.—1.07 (longer than broad).

Shape of base.—Obtuse.

Shape of teeth.—Obtuse (serrate to crenate).

Serrations per leaf.—22.0.

Foliage characteristics:

Color of upper surface.—RHS N137B (ranges from medium green to dark green).

Color of underside.—RHS 147C (yellow green group).

Number of leaflets.—3.

Size.—Medium.

Shape in cross section.—Slightly concave to flat.

Interveinal blistering.—Ranges from medium to strong.

Leaf glossiness.—Medium.

Leaf variegation.—Absent.

Petiole characteristics:

Color.—RHS 146C (yellow green group).

Length (cm).—15.1.

Diameter (mm).—3.1.

Attitude of hairs.—Slightly outward.

Frequency of bract leaflets.—40% occurrence (occasionally).

Bract leaflet size.—Medium.

Pubescence.—Sparse.

Petiolule color.—RHS 146C (yellow green group).

Petiolule length (mm).—11.8.

Stipule characteristics:

Color.—RHS 146C (yellow green group).

Anthocyanin coloration.—RHS 61B (red purple group).

Anthocyanin intensity.—Weak.

Length (mm).—26.6.

Width (mm).—10.5.

Fruiting truss characteristics:

Anthocyanin coloration.—RHS 180C (greyed red group).

Anthocyanin intensity.—Absent or very weak.

Length at maturity (cm).—30.9.

Position relative to foliage.—Level with.

Number of flowers.—Few.

Pedicel attitude of hairs.—Upward.

Pubescence.—Weak.

Attitude at first pick.—Prostrate.

Flower characteristics:

Petal color.—RHS NN 155C (white group).

Sepal color.—RHS N 137A (green group).

Receptacle color.—RHS 148B (yellow green group).

Anther color.—RHS 13A (yellow group).

Corolla diameter (mm).—29.1 (medium).

Calyx diameter (mm).—28.8.

Petal length (mm).—11.5.

Petal width (mm).—11.8.

Petal length/width ratio.—0.97 (as long as broad).

Petals/flower.—6.0.

Sepal length (mm).—10.2.

Sepal width (mm).—3.9.

Sepal length/width ratio.—2.60.

Sepals/flower.—12.2.

Size of calyx relative to corolla.—Same.

Size of inner calyx relative to outer calyx.—Same.

Relative position of petals (flowers with 5-6 petals).—Overlapping.

Stamen.—Present.

Pest and disease reactions:

Powdery mildew.—Moderately susceptible.

Angular leaf spot.—Moderate.

Botrytis fruit rot.—Moderately susceptible.

Two-spotted spider mite.—Moderately susceptible.

We claim:

1. A new and distinct strawberry plant named 'PE-6.2036', as herein described and illustrated by the characteristics set forth above.

* * * * *

FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

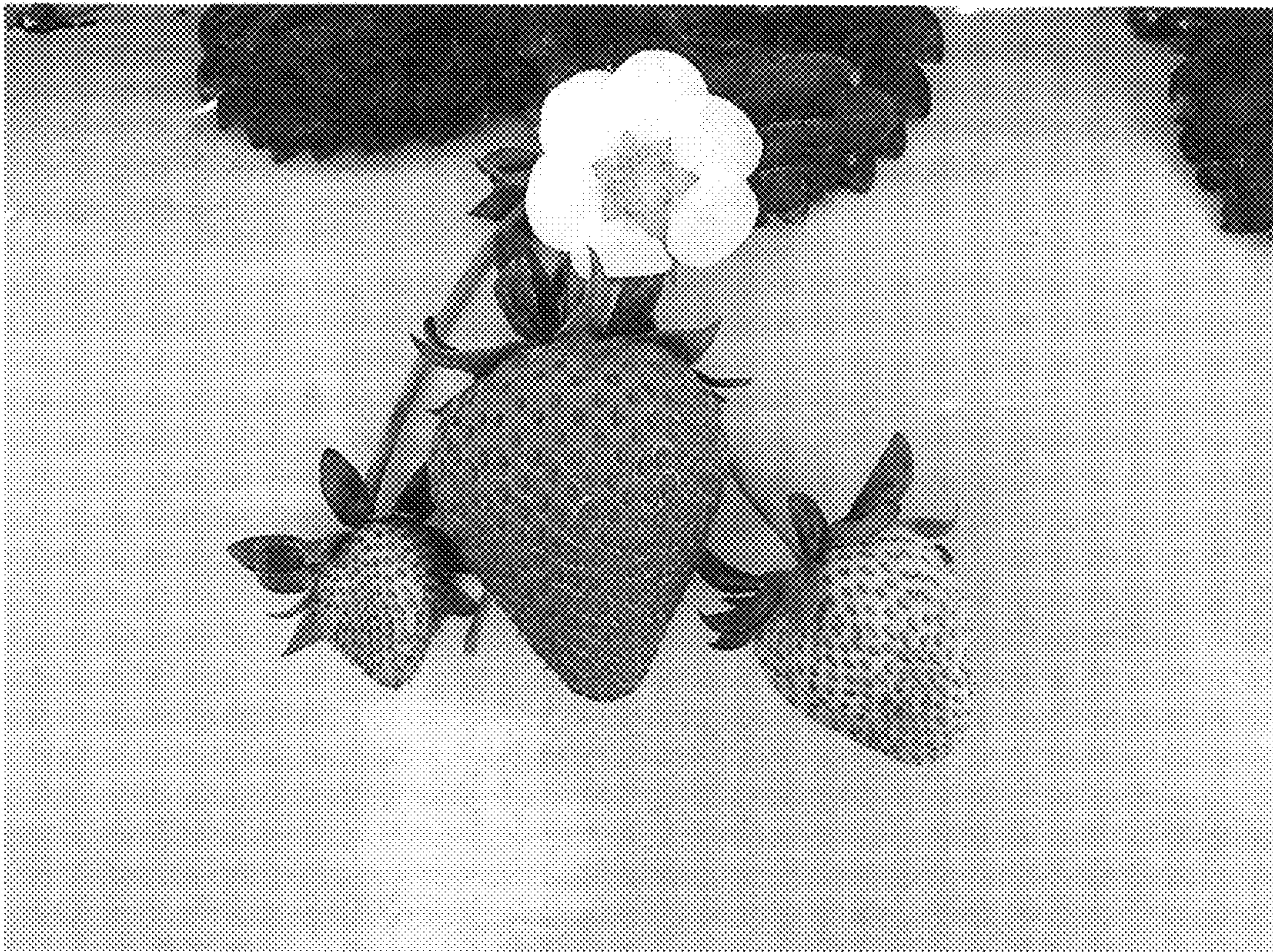


FIG. 4

