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Slaughter et al.

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(54) **PEACH TREE NAMED ‘WAPEACHONE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus persica*
Varietal Denomination: **Wapeachone**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./197**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC **Plt./194, 197**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP28,597 P3 11/2017 Gerdtts et al.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of peach tree (*Prunus persica*),
which is denominated varietally as ‘Wapeachone’ and that
produces an attractively colored yellow-fleshed, clingstone
peach, which is mature for harvesting and shipment approxi-
mately October 12 to October 19 under the ecological
conditions prevailing in the San Joaquin Valley of central
California.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: ‘*Prunus persica*’.
Varietal denomination: ‘Wapeachone’.

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present variety of peach tree resulted from an on-
going program of fruit and nut tree breeding. The purpose of
this program is to improve the commercial quality of decidu-
ous fruit varieties and rootstocks by creating and releasing
promising selections of *Prunus* species. To this end we make
both controlled and hybrid cross pollinations each year to
produce seedling populations from which improved prog-
enies are evaluated and selected.

The seedling ‘Wapeachone’ was originated by the breed-
ers and selected from among a population of seedlings
growing in their experimental orchards located near Fowler,
Calif. These seedlings, grown on their own roots, were
derived from planting seed of an unpatented female parent
seedling ‘J25.002’, which was either open pollinated or, just
as likely, self-pollinated. The resulting fruit was collected
from the female parent at a mature stage, and seeds were
extracted in August of 2009. After a period of stratification,
the seed was placed in the greenhouse by population and
then field planted for tree establishment and, ultimately, to
exhibit fruit for evaluation. One yellow-fleshed peach seed-
ling, which is the present variety, exhibited especially desir-
able characteristics and was designated as ‘H14.200’. This
seedling was marked for subsequent observation. After the
2013 fruiting season, the new variety of peach tree was
selected for advanced evaluation and repropagation.

ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION

Asexual reproduction of this new and distinct variety of
peach tree was accomplished by budding the new peach tree

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onto thirty trees of ‘Nemaguard’ Rootstock (un-patented).
This was performed by the breeders in their experimental
orchard located near Fowler, Calif. Subsequent evaluations
of these asexually reproduced plants have shown those
asexual reproductions run true to the original tree. All
characteristics of the original tree and its fruit were estab-
lished and appear to be transmitted through these succeeding
asexual propagations.

SUMMARY OF VARIETY

‘Wapeachone’ is a new and distinct variety of peach tree,
which is considered of relatively large size and which has a
vigorous growth characteristic. This new tree is also a
regular and productive bearer of relatively large, firm, yel-
low-fleshed, clingstone fruit which have a very good flavor
and eating qualities.

This new peach tree has a medium chilling requirement of
approximately 650 hours and further produces relatively
uniformly sized fruit throughout the tree’s canopy. In addi-
tion to the foregoing, the fruit of the new peach also appears
to have good handling and shipping qualities. The ‘Wapea-
chone’ peach tree bears fruit which are typically ripe for
commercial harvesting and shipment on approximately
October 12 to October 19 under the ecological conditions
prevailing in the San Joaquin Valley of central California. In
relative comparison to the ‘Burpeachthirtyseven’ peach tree
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 28,597), which is the closest known
variety, the current variety of peach tree bears fruit that
ripens approximately 14 days later than the comparator
variety. When compared to the seed parent, the current
variety ripens approximately 10 days later. A comparison to

the pollen parent would express the same difference in ripening date if the seed parent was self-pollinated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a color photograph of two whole mature fruit harvested, from a fifth leaf year tree, displaying both the apical and basal fruit aspects. One mature fruit bisected transversely through the sutural plane, which reveals the flesh color and stone characteristics thereof. The external coloration of the fruit as shown in the photograph is sufficiently matured for harvesting and shipment. Additionally, one of the bisected fruit hemispheres displays a typical stone still in contact with fruit, but with the flesh removed.

FIG. 2 is a color photograph of the flowers of the 'Wapeachone' tree.

The colors in these photographs are as nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this type. Due to chemical development, processing and printing, the flowers and fruit depicted in these photographs may, or may not, be accurate when compared to the actual specimen. For this reason, future color references should be made to the color plates (Royal Horticultural Society, Fourth Edition, 2001) and descriptions provided, hereinafter.

NOT A COMMERCIAL WARRANTY

The following detailed description has been prepared to solely comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and does not constitute a commercial warranty (either expressed or implied) that the present variety will in the future display all the botanical, pomological, or other characteristics as set forth, hereinafter. Therefore, this disclosure may not be relied upon to support any future legal claims including, but not limited to, breach of warranty of merchantability, or fitness for any purpose, or non-infringement which is directed, in whole, or in part, to the present variety.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the pomological details of this new and distinct variety of peach tree, the following has been observed during the sixth fruiting season, and under the ecological conditions prevailing at the orchards of the assignee located near the town of Fowler, county of Fresno, state of Calif. All major color code designations are by reference to The R.H.S. Colour Chart (Royal Horticultural Society, Fourth Edition, 2001) provided by The Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain. Common color names are also occasionally used.

Tree:

Size.—Generally considered medium to medium-large in its growth pattern as compared to other common commercial peach cultivars ripening in the late season of maturity. The tree of the present variety was pruned to a height of about 270.0 cm to about 310.0 cm at commercial maturity. Fruit size can vary with crop load and the conditions under which the fruit and tree are grown.

Width.—Approximately 265.0 cm.

Vigor.—Considered moderately vigorous. The present peach tree variety grew from about 175.0 cm to about 180.0 cm in height during the first growing season. The new variety was pruned to a height of

about 150.0 cm during the first dormant season, and primary scaffolds were then selected for the desired tree structure.

Productivity.—Productive. Fruit set varies from more than the desired crop load, to levels higher than desired amounts, when the new variety is grown in a suitable horticultural zone and under appropriate commercial nursery conditions. The fruit set is spaced by thinning to develop the remaining fruit into the desired market-sized fruit. The number of the fruit set varies with the prevailing climatic conditions and the cultural practices employed.

Fruit bearing.—Regular. Fruit set has been more than adequate during the previous years of observation, and thinning was necessary during the past 8 years on both the original seedling and on subsequent asexually reproduced trees.

Tree form.—Upright and pruned into a vase shape.

Density.—Considered moderately dense.

Hardiness.—The present tree was grown and evaluated in USDA Hardiness Zone 9. The calculated winter chilling requirements of the new tree is approximately 650 hours at a temperature below 7.0 degrees C. The present variety appears to be hardy under typical central San Joaquin Valley climatic conditions.

Trunk:

Diameter.—Approximately 22.0 cm in diameter when measured at approximately 15.5 cm above the soil level. This measurement was taken at the beginning of the sixth growing season.

Bark texture.—Considered moderately rough with folds of papery scarfskin being present. Since bark development and coloration change with advancing tree age, this characteristic varies with the tree vigor, age, and regional conditions. Therefore, this is not a dependable descriptor of the new variety.

Lenticels.—Numerous flat, oval lenticels are present. The lenticels range in size from about 3.5 mm to about 5.5 mm in width, and between about 1.0 mm and about 2.0 mm in height. The development and size of the trunk lenticels can be influenced, to some degree, by the ambient growing conditions and are not necessarily a dependable characteristic of this variety. As trees of this variety mature, lenticels are present, but they are generally covered by increasing layers of cork (mature bark) and therefore become less apparent.

Lenticel color.—Considered an orange brown (RHS Greyed-Orange Group N167 A).

Bark coloration.—Variable, but it is generally considered to be a greyed tan (RHS Brown Group 200 B). This bark description was taken from trees in their sixth leaf which have ruptured the scarf skin, and which also have developed bark furrowing which is much more typical of the bark of older trees. It should be noted that the coloration of the bark is influenced, and varies, as the smoother, darker background color approaches other bark features, such as the lenticels and the initial fissures which form a feature of the scarf skin development.

Branches:

Size.—Considered medium large for the variety.

Diameter.—Average as compared to other peach varieties. The branches have a diameter of about 13.0 cm when measured during the sixth year after grafting.

Flowering shoot thickness.—Average for the species. Generally, the most consistent flower bud development and, therefore, potential fruiting sites occur on shoots which are about 7.0 mm in diameter or larger but generally less than about 15.0 mm in diameter at the time of bloom.

Surface texture.—Average and appearing relatively smooth, but with more furrowing on wood which is several years old.

Crotch angles.—Primary branches are considered variable and are usually growing at an angle of about 45 degrees when measured from a horizontal plane.

Current season shoots.—Surface texture — Substantially glabrous.

Internode length.—Approximately 3.0 cm.

Color of mature branches.—Approximately Grey brown (RHS Greyed-Orange Group 177 A).

Current season's shoots.—Color. — Light green (RHS Yellow-Green Group 145 A). The color of new shoot tips is considered a light green (RHS Yellow-Green Group 145 A). The vegetative shoot color can be significantly influenced by plant nutrition, irrigation practices, and exposure to sunlight, and therefore should not be considered a consistent botanical characteristic of this new variety.

Leaves:

Size.—Considered average for the species. Leaf measurements have been taken from vigorous, upright, current-season growth, at approximately mid-shoot. The leaf size is often influenced by prevailing growing conditions, quality and intensity of available sunlight, and the location of the leaf within the tree canopy. For this reason, leaves sizes can vary significantly based upon the ambient light and other cultural factors listed above and are not typically considered a dependable botanical descriptor.

Leaf length.—About 152.0 mm to about 162.0 mm.

Leaf width.—About 32.0 mm to about 37.0 mm.

Leaf base-shape.—The leaves generally exhibit equal marginal symmetry relative to the leaf longitudinal axis.

Leaf form.—Lanceolate.

Leaf tip form.—Acuminate.

Leaf color.—Upper Leaf Surface — Medium green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 144 A).

Leaf texture.—

Upper leaf surface.—Glabrous.

Lower leaf surface.—Glabrous.

Leaf color.—Lower Leaf Surface — Medium yellow-green (approximately RHS Green Group 147 C).

Leaf venation.—Pinnately veined.

Mid-vein.—Color — Considered a pale green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 145 C).

Leaf margins.—Gently undulating.

Form.—Considered crenulate.

Uniformity.—Generally uniform.

Leaf petioles.—

Form.—Considered canaliculated and having a more pronounced trough when viewed from the dorsal aspect. The petiole margin is considered rounded when viewed from the ventral aspect.

Size.—Considered large for the species.

Length.—About 13.0 mm to about 15.5 mm.

Diameter.—About 1.5 mm to about 2.0 mm.

Color.—A light green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 145 B).

Texture.—Glabrous.

Strength.—Durable for species until senescence.

Leaf glands.—

Size.—Considered relatively small for the species; about 1.0 mm in width; and about 1.5 mm in height.

Number.—Generally, one per marginal side. Occasionally two glands per side are found. Observations of more than two glands per marginal side are very uncommon.

Type.—Glands located at the base of the leaf are predominantly reniform in shape. An additional one to two, or occasionally more glands, which appear reniform, and stalked gland primordia are often present at the basal margin of the leaf petiole as well.

Color.—Considered a yellowed green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 151 A). Typically, the coloration of the glands darkens, and occasionally begins to desiccate relatively early in the growing season.

Leaf stipules.—

Size.—Medium large for this variety with a length of about 11.0 mm to about 14.0 mm and an average width of about 1.0 mm.

Number.—Typically, 2 per leaf bud and up to 6 per shoot tip.

Form.—Lanceolate in form and having a serrated marginal edge.

Color.—Green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 145 A) when young, but graduating to a brown color (approximately RHS Greyed-Orange Group 165 A) with advancing senescence. The leaf stipules are generally considered to be early deciduous.

Flower buds:

Hardiness.—No winter injury (bud death) has been noted during the last several years of observation in the central San Joaquin Valley. The new variety of peach tree has not been intentionally subjected to drought, cold, or heat stress, and, therefore, this information is not available.

Flower bud.—Size — Variable and dependent on the state of maturity. The flower buds as described were observed approximately 7 days prior to bloom.

Length.—Approximately, 16.5 millimeters.

Diameter.—Approximately, 9.5 millimeters.

Surface texture.—Pubescent.

Orientation.—Considered appressed but appear less so as the blossoms near opening.

Bud scale color.—Approximately RHS Greyed-Orange Group 175 A.

Flowers:

Date of first bloom.—Observed on Feb. 21, 2018.

Blooming time.—Considered average to slightly early mid-bloom in relative comparison to other commercial peach cultivars grown in the central San Joaquin Valley. The date of full bloom was observed on Feb. 28, 2018. The date of full bloom varies slightly with climatic conditions and prevailing cultural practices.

Duration of bloom.—Approximately 8 or more days. This characteristic varies slightly with the prevailing climatic conditions.

Flower class.—Considered a perfect flower, complete and perigynous.

Flower type.—The variety is considered to have a showy type flower.

Flower size.—Considered large. The flower diameter at full bloom, is about 47.0 mm to about 52.0 mm. 5

Bloom quantity.—Considered abundant.

Flower bud density.—Generally considered dense.

Flower bud frequency.—Generally, two flower buds appear per node, but, occasionally, one flower bud per node is observed. Very rarely, three floral buds per node are observed. 10

Petal size.—Generally considered large for the species.

Petal length.—About 20.0 mm to about 22.0 mm. 15

Petal width.—About 17.0 mm to about 19.0 mm.

Petal form.—Considered broadly ovate.

Petal count.—Nearly always 5.

Petal texture.—

Upper petal texture.—Very finely pubescent, satin like. 20

Lower petal texture.—Very finely pubescent, satin like.

Petal color.—Considered a light pink at the popcorn stage (RHS Red-Purple Group 62 D).

Fragrance.—Slight.

Petal claw.— 25

Form.—The claw is considered ovate and is generally large.

Length.—Approximately 14.0 mm.

Width.—Approximately 12.0 mm.

Petal margins.—Generally, slightly undulate. 30

Petal apex.—Generally, exhibits a small notch at the apex.

Flower pedicel.—

Length.—Considered medium with an approximate length of about 2.0 mm to about 3.5 mm. 35

Diameter.—Approximately 2.0 mm.

Color.—A medium brown (approximately RHS Grey-Brown Group N199 D) depending on pedicel and fruit maturity and timing of visual observance.

Strength.—Tenacious. Average for the species. 40

Texture.—Generally smooth.

Floral nectaries.—

Color.—Considered a burnt orange (approximately RHS Greyed-Orange Group 163 A).

Calyx.— 45

Surface texture.—Generally glabrous.

Color.—Approximately RHS Greyed-Red Group 182 A.

Sepals.—

Upper surface texture.—Moderately pubescent. 50

Lower surface texture.—Finely pubescent.

Number.—5 sepals.

Size.—Considered medium.

Sepal length.—About 5.0 mm to about 7.5 mm.

Sepal width.—About 4.5 mm to about 6.0 mm. 55

Sepal shape.—Generally obovate.

Sepal margin.—Considered smooth and entire.

Sepal color.—Approximately RHS Greyed-Purple Group 187 B.

Anthers.— 60

Generally.—Average in size with a length of about 1.0 mm to about 1.5 mm, a width of about 1.0 mm, and a depth of about 1.0 mm.

Color.—Yellow when viewed dorsally and just prior to dehiscence (approximately RHS Yellow-Orange Group 20 A). 65

Position relative to stigma.—Generally, the stigma is superior to the anthers by about 1.0 mm to about 2.0 mm.

Position relative to petals.—At flower maturity, the stamen grow to be superior to the base of the flower petals with a distance between the stigma apex and flower petal attachment (base) of about 10.0 mm to about 12.0 mm.

Pollen production.—Pollen is abundant and has a yellow color (approximately RHS Yellow-Orange Group 17 D).

Fertility.—Self-fertile.

Filaments.—

Size.—About 13.0 mm to about 16.0 mm in length.

Color.—Considered white to a pinkish-white (RHS White Group N155 D).

Pistil.—

Number.—Usually one, and only rarely more than one.

Generally.—Considered medium in size.

Length.—About 18.0 mm to about 20.0 mm in length including the ovary.

Ovary.—Pubescent.

Color.—Considered a very pale green (approximately RHS Yellow-Green Group 150 D).

Surface texture.—The variety has a long pubescent pistil.

Fruit:

Maturity when described.—Firm ripe condition (shipping ripe).

Date of first picking.—Approximately Oct. 12, 2018.

Date of last picking.—Oct. 19, 2018. The date of harvest can vary with the prevailing climatic conditions, crop loads and the current climatic and cultural practices.

Size.—Generally — Considered large.

Average cheek diameter.—About 86.0 mm to about 92.0 mm.

Average axial diameter.—About 82.0 mm to about 87.0 mm.

Typical weight.—Approximately 327.0 grams. The fruit size and weight can vary and are dependent on the prevailing cultural practices and growing conditions and, therefore, is not particularly distinctive of the new variety.

Fruit soluble solids.—Approximately 15.0 degrees Brix to approximately 17.5 degrees Brix. Fruit sugar levels can vary significantly depending on fruit maturity, local and seasonal climatic conditions, and fruit per tree.

Fruit firmness.—Fruit flesh pressures generally averaged 11.0 pounds (about 4.99 kg) at the time the fruit was analyzed.

Titrateable acidity.—Approximately 0.67 to approximately 0.77 at commercial harvest maturity.

Fruit form.—Generally — Considered globose. The fruit is generally very uniform in symmetry.

Mucron tip.—Can occasionally be observed.

Fruit suture.—No stitching exists along the suture line.

Suture.—Color — Generally, the fruit appears blushed to the same degree as the skin (approximately RHS Orange-Red Group N34 A).

Ventral surface.—Form — Considered even and uniform in appearance when it is viewed from the lateral, sutural plane.

Apex.—Shape — Generally rounded with occasional mucron tip.

Base.—Shape — The base of the fruit is considered to be smooth even with regard to the shoulders.

Stem cavity.—Generally — It extends in a rounded 5
circular form which is generally considered uniform. The stem cavity is rounded but slightly extended toward the suture. The average depth of the stem cavity is about 9.0 mm to about 11.0 mm. The average width of the stem cavity is about 24.0 mm. 10
The average length of the stem cavity when measured in the sutural plane is about 44.0 mm.

Fruit skin.—

Thickness.—Considered medium in thickness, and 15
tenacious to the flesh.

Surface texture.—Pubescent

Taste.—Non-astringent.

Tendency to crack.—Not observed in the previous years of observation and evaluation. 20

Lenticels.—The lenticels are nearly inconspicuous on the skin surface and generally blend into the blush and ground color of the skin. Lenticels are slightly more apparent in the areas of lower red blush on the skin. No lenticel protrusion has been noted. 25

Fruit skin color.—

Blush color.—Generally speaking, a red blush exists on much of the skin of the fruit (approximately RHS Orange-Red Group N34 A) and is more typically present on the portions of the fruit facing the sun- 30
light. The blush of the fruit typically covers approximately 60% to approximately 70% of the fruit skin surface. The percentage of the blush on the fruit skin surface can vary and is generally dependent upon the fruit's exposure to direct sunlight; specific fruit maturity; and the prevailing ecological and cultural conditions under which the fruit was grown. 35

Ground color.—A medium yellow (approximately RHS Yellow-Orange Group 15 C). The ground color 40
of the fruit can vary significantly based upon the maturity of the fruit when this measurement is taken and generally gains a lighter and less green cast with higher maturity.

Fruit glossiness.—Fruit is not considered to be glossy. 45

Fruit stem.—

Size.—Medium in length, about 6.0 mm to about 8.0 mm.

Diameter.—About 2.0 mm to about 3.0 mm.

Color.—Pale yellow green (approximately RHS Yel- 50
low-Green Group N144 C).

Fruit flesh.—

Ripening.—Considered even.

Texture.—Firm, juicy, and dense. Considered non-
melting in flesh classification. 55

Fibers.—Present but not prominent.

Aroma.—Present.

Eating quality.—Considered very good.

Flavor.—Considered balanced with sweetness and acidity. 60

Juice production.—Moderate.

Brix.—About 15.0 degrees to about 17.5 degrees. This characteristic varies slightly with the number of fruits per tree; fruit position on the tree; the maturity of fruit when harvested; the prevailing cultural prac- 65
tices; and the ambient climatic conditions.

Acidity.—Considered medium. Approximately 0.67 titratable acidity at fruit harvest. Acid levels assayed from fruit flesh can vary with fruit maturity; length of time in cold storage; sunlight exposure; and climatic, regional, seasonal, and cultural influences.

Flesh color.—It is considered yellow (approximately RHS Yellow-Orange Group 21 C). The present variety often exhibits red bleed, which radiates from about 4.0 mm to about 12.0 mm from the stone. Approximately RHS Red Group 45 B.

Stone:

Type.—Considered a tight freestone.

Size.—It is generally considered to be medium-large for the species. The stone size varies significantly depending upon the tree vigor, the crop load, and the prevailing growing and cultural conditions under which the tree was grown.

Length.—Average, approximately 40.0 mm.

Width.—Average, approximately 31.0 mm.

Diameter.—Average, approximately 22.0 mm.

Form.—Roughly ovoid.

Stone base.—Shape — The stone is considered shortly attenuate.

Apex.—Shape — The stone exhibits a slight acute apex.

Stone surface.—

Surface texture.—Considered irregularly furrowed toward the apex. Further, more pitting exists in the mid-portion of the stone (laterally) and is more common toward the base.

Ridges.—Ridging is generally more prominent and is usually oriented parallel and laterally relative at the ventral and dorsal margins.

Ventral edge.—The ventral edge is generally is described as having adjoining ridges formed from each hemisphere. There are longitudinal grooves running alongside this joined ventral suture.

Dorsal edge.—Shape — Generally considered even. The folds of the surface ridges appearing on the external margins often end gently along the suture.

Stone color.—The color of a mature, dry stone is generally considered a dull brown (approximately RHS Greyed-Orange Group 165 A). Stone color can vary considering how recently the fruit has ripened, harvested, degree of oxidation, surface drying, and blanching due to exposure sunlight.

Tendency to split.—Splitting has rarely been noted.

Kernel.—

Length.—About 15.0 mm to about 18.0 mm.

Width.—About 10.0 mm to about 12.0 mm.

Thickness.—About 5.0 mm to about 6.0 mm.

Size.—The kernel is considered medium in size.

Form.—Considered generally ovoid.

Kernel surface texture.—Kernel pellicle is shortly pubescent.

Color.—A dark tan (RHS Greyed-Orange Group N167 B).

Use.—The present variety 'Wapeachone' is a peach tree of the late season of maturity, which produces fruit that are considered to be firm, attractively colored, and useful for both local and long-distance shipping.

Keeping quality.—Appears excellent. The fruit of the present variety has stored well for periods of up to 35 days after harvest at 1.0 degree Celsius.

Shipping quality.—Good. The fruit of the new peach tree variety showed minimal bruising of the flesh or skin damage after being subjected to normal harvesting and packing procedures.

Resistance to insects and disease.—No susceptibilities were noted. The present variety has not been intentionally tested to expose or detect any susceptibilities or resistances to any known plant, fruit diseases, insect, frost, winter injury, or other environmental factors.

Although the new variety of peach tree possesses the described characteristics when grown under the ecological conditions prevailing near Fowler, Calif., in the Central part of the San Joaquin Valley of California, variations of the usual magnitude, and characteristics incident to changes in

growing conditions, fertilization, nutrition, pruning, pest control, frost, climatic variables, and changes in horticultural management are to be expected.

Having thus described and illustrated our new variety of peach tree, what we claim is new, and desire to secure by plant Letters Patent is:

1. A new distinct variety of peach tree substantially as illustrated and described, and which is characterized principally as to novelty by producing an attractively colored yellow-fleshed, clingstone peach which is mature for harvesting and shipment approximately October 12 to October 19 under the ecological conditions prevailing in the San Joaquin Valley of central California.

* * * * *

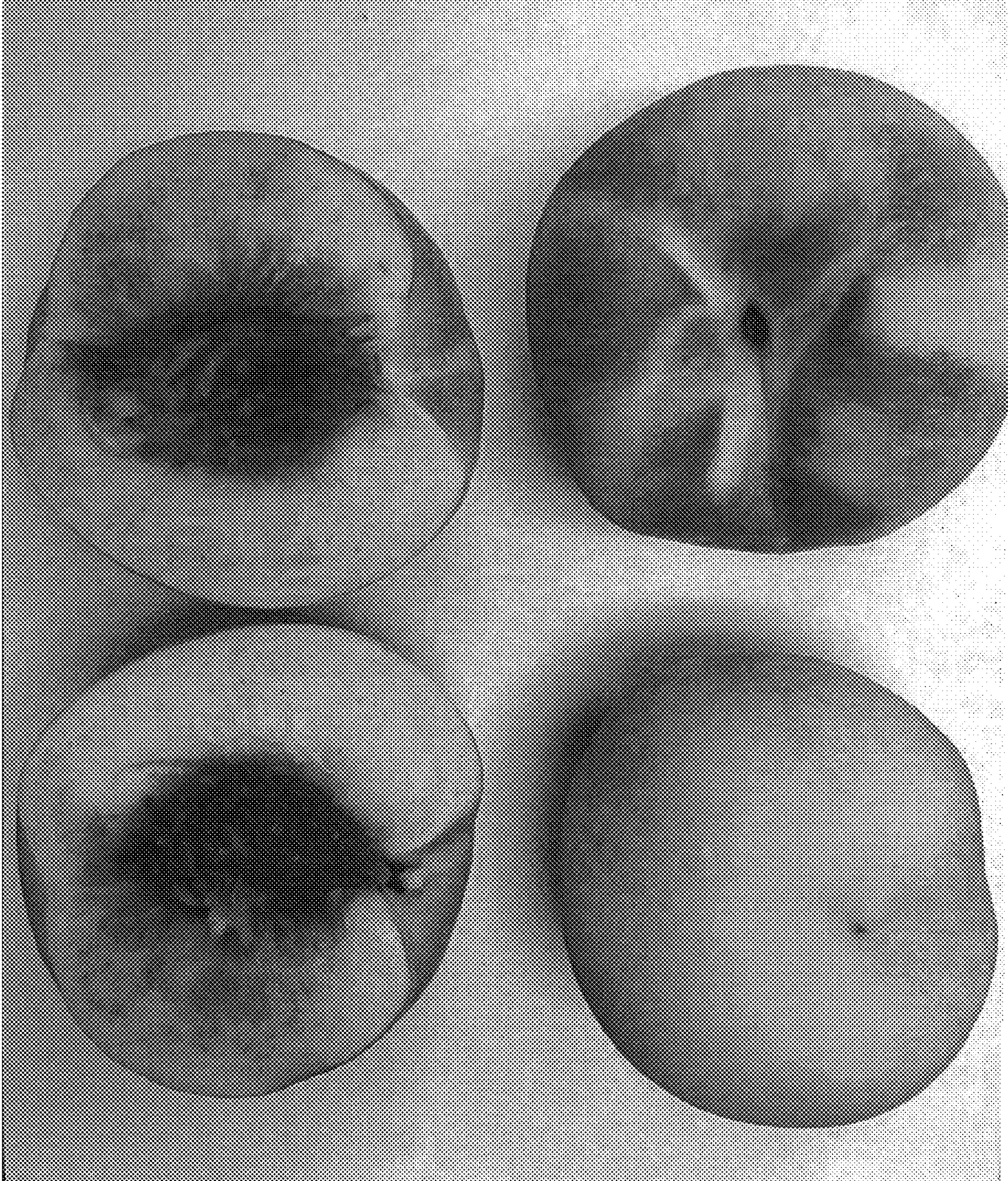


FIG. 1

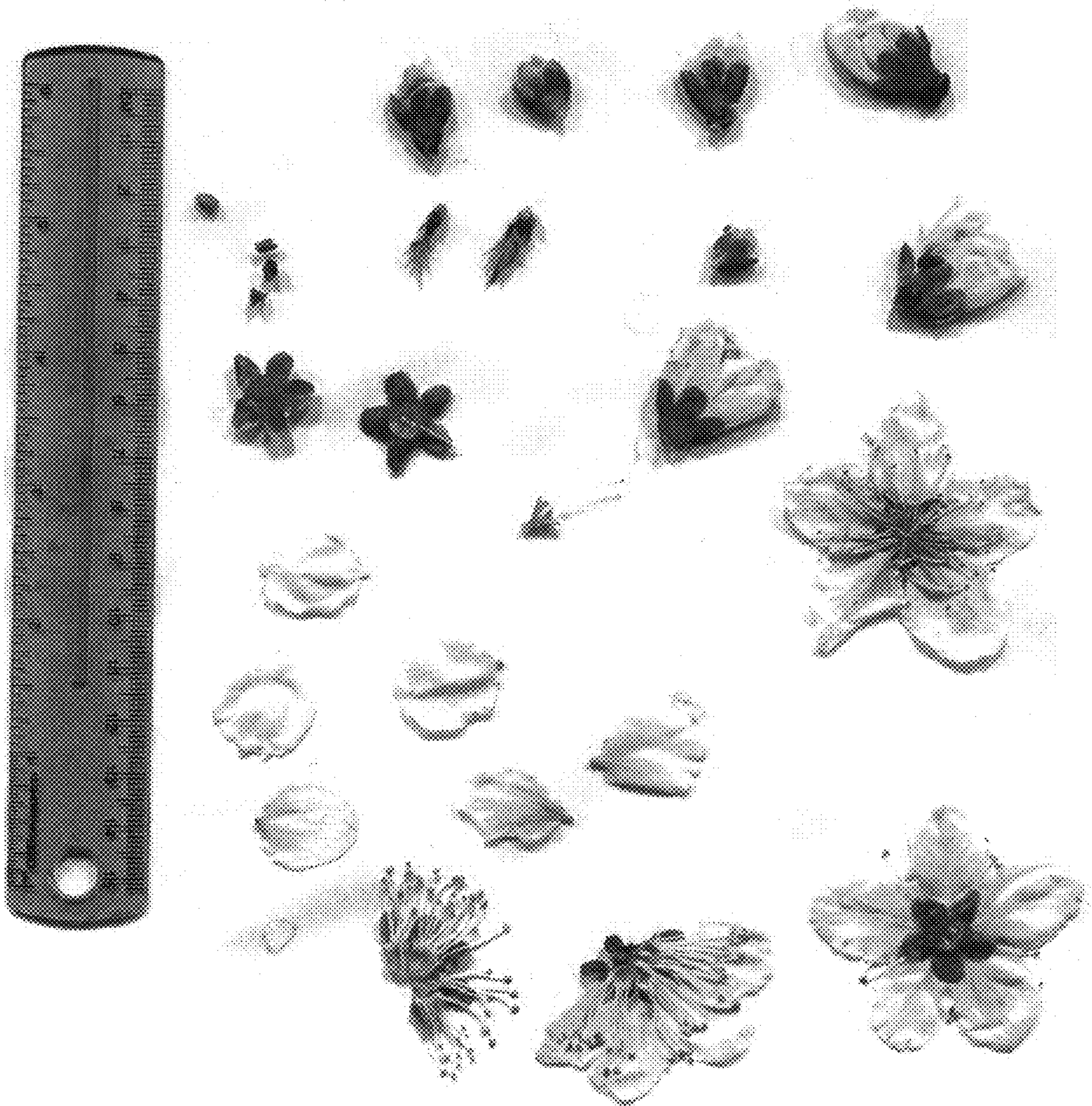


FIG. 2