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Bacon et al.

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(54) **PLUM TREE NAMED ‘SUPLUM64’**

(50) Latin Name: *Prunus salicina*
Varietal Denomination: **Suplum64**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The new variety of plum tree ‘Suplum64’ is characterized by
having oblong fruit that is large sized for a late-season plum,
with mottled green-red skin, firm dark red-purple flesh, and
a very sweet flavor.

1 Drawing Sheet

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Latin name of the genus and species claimed: *Prunus salicina*.

Variety denomination: ‘SUPLUM64’.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This application relates to the discovery and asexual
propagation of a new and distinct variety of plum tree,
Prunus salicina ‘Suplum64’. The new variety was first
originated by hybridization near Wasco, Kern County, Calif.
and identified in September 2017 by Terry A. Bacon and
Terrence J. Frett as breeder number ‘PL2177RG’.

The seed parent is ‘PL1261YY’ (unpatented breeding
selection), and the pollen parent is unknown (a bulk pollen
of unpatented breeding program selections). The parent
varieties were first crossed in March 2014, the date of first
sowing being March 2015 and the date of first flowering
being March 2017. The new plum variety ‘Suplum64’ was
first asexually propagated by Terry A. Bacon and Terrence J.
Frett near Wasco, Kern County, Calif. in December 2020 by
dormant grafting.

The new variety ‘Suplum64’ is characterized by having
oblong-shaped fruit that is large sized for a late-season plum,
with mottled green-red skin, firm dark red-purple flesh, and
a very sweet flavor.

The new variety ‘Suplum64’ differs from its seed parent
‘PL1261YY’ (unpatented breeding selection) in that the fruit
of the new variety has mottled green-red skin and dark
red-purple flesh, compared to yellow skin and yellow flesh
for ‘PL1261YY’.

The new variety ‘Suplum64’ ripens in the late season like
‘Suplumsix’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 2,747) but ripening starts
22 days earlier than ‘Suplumsix’. Additionally, the new
variety ‘Suplum64’ has dark red-purple flesh compared to
yellow flesh for ‘Suplumsix’. The fruit of the new variety
‘Suplum64’ has mottled green-red skin and dark red-purple

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flesh compared to greenish-yellow skin and yellow flesh for
‘Flavor Queen’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,420), purple skin and
yellow-red flesh for ‘Flavor King’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No.
8,026) and reddish-black skin and light-red flesh for ‘Suplu-
meleven’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,902).

The new variety ‘Suplum64’ has been shown to maintain
its distinguishing characteristics through successive asexual
propagations by, for example, cuttings and grafting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The accompanying color photographic illustration, FIG.
1, shows typical specimens of the foliage and fruit of the
plum variety ‘Suplum64’. The illustration shows the upper
and lower surfaces of the leaves and exterior and sectional
views of the fruit. The photographic illustration was taken
shortly after the fruit was picked and the colors are as nearly
true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this
type.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Throughout this specification, color names beginning
with a small letter signify that the name of that color as used
in common speech is aptly descriptive. Color names begin-
ning with a capital letter designate values based upon The
R.H.S. Colour Chart published by The Royal Horticultural
Society, London, England, 1986.

The descriptive matter which follows pertains to three-
year-old ‘Suplum64’ trees grown in the vicinity of Wasco,
Kern County, Calif. during 2021 and is believed to apply to
plants of the variety grown under similar conditions of soil
and climate elsewhere.

TREE

General: (Measurements taken on three-year-old trees unless
otherwise noted).

Size.—Medium: reaches a height of approximately 3 meters with normal pruning.

Habit.—Semi-upright.

Vigor.—Strong. Top shoot growth of 1.5 meters during the growing season.

Productivity.—Very productive. About 700, 25 lb cartons per acre. Fruit set is usually two or more times the desired amount for marketable size fruit. Thinning and spacing of fruit is necessary.

Bearer.—On spurs and long shoots.

Fertility.—Self-incompatible; requires pollinator.

Hardiness.—Hardy in all fruit growing areas of California. Winter chilling requirement is approximately 600 hours at or below 7.2° C.

Disease resistance/susceptibility.—Under close observation in Kern County, Calif., no particular plant/fruit disease resistance/susceptibility has been observed.

Insect resistance/susceptibility.—Under close observation in Kern County, Calif., no particular plant/fruit insect resistance/susceptibility has been observed.

Trunk: (Measurements taken at approximately 30 cm above soil line on mature tree).

Diameter.—Approximately 13 cm.

Texture.—Medium shaggy, increasing with age of tree.

Trunk color.—About Medium Greyed-Green 198B with highlights of Dark Greyed-Orange 166A, becoming darker with age.

Branches: (Measurements taken at approximately 90 cm above soil line).

Size.—Diameter approximately 9 cm.

Texture.—Medium shaggy, increasing with age.

Color.—About Dark Grey 201B with highlights of about Medium Grey-Brown 199B, becoming darker with age.

Lenticels.—Present.

Lenticels density.—Plentiful, about 50/cm².

Lenticels color.—About Medium Greyed-Green 197C.

Lenticels dimensions.—Length: approximately 1-3 mm. Width: approximately 0.5 mm.

One year old shoots: (Data taken in September at mid-point of current-season growth).

Size.—Average diameter approximately 6 mm.

Topside color.—About Medium Green 137C, becoming Medium Greyed-Orange 165B by September.

Underside color.—About Medium Green 137C, becoming Medium Greyed-Orange 165B by September.

Internode length.—Approximately 2 cm. Midway on shoot.

Lenticels color.—About Medium Greyed-Green 197C.

Lenticels size.—Very small, difficult to see, about 0.2 mm diameter.

Lenticels density.—Medium.

Spur length.—Medium, usually 8 mm.

Anthocyanin intensity on upper side of shoot.—Medium.

Vegetative buds:

Position of vegetative bud in relation to shoot.—Slightly held out.

Size.—Medium, approximately 1.7 mm wide×2.7 mm long.

Shape.—Ovoid.

Bud shape at apex.—Obtuse.

Color.—About Dark Greyed-Orange 166A.

Flower buds:

Shape.—Ovoid.

Dimensions.—Approximately 1.1 mm wide×2 mm long.

Color.—About Medium Greyed-Orange 177B.

Distribution.—2-6 buds, generally on spurs and one-year old shoots.

Ratio of flowering buds to vegetative buds.—2-6 flower buds to 1 vegetative bud.

FOLIAGE

Leaves: (Data taken in July on fully expanded leaves at mid-point of the current season growth).

Average length.—Medium; approximately 9.3 cm without petiole.

Average width.—Medium; approximately 3.9 cm.

Length/width ratio.—Moderately elongated; about 2.3:1.

Shape.—Elliptic.

Color.—

Upper surface.—About Dark Green 139A.

Lower surface.—About Medium Green 136C.

Glossiness of upper side.—Medium.

Angle at apex (excluding tip).—Acute.

Shape of base.—Acuminate.

Vein color.—About Light Green 139D with highlights of Medium Greyed-Orange 176C where exposed to sun.

Venation.—Pinnately net veined.

Surface texture.—Smooth on both upper and lower surfaces.

Shape in the cross section.—Concave.

Profile.—Up folded.

Leaf blade tip.—Curved downwardly.

Undulation of margin.—Slight.

Density of pubescence of lower side.—Absent or very sparse.

Incisions of margin.—Bi-crenate.

Petiole:

Average length.—Long, approximately 16 mm.

Average diameter.—Approximately 2 mm.

Color.—About Light Green 139D with highlights of Medium Greyed-Orange 176C where exposed to sun.

Stipules:

Number/leaf bud.—Usually one.

Typical length.—Approximately 6 mm.

Color.—About Dark Greyed-Orange 166A when dried.

Persistence.—Falls off.

Leaf glands:

Average number and arrangement.—1-3, alternating. Predominately on petiole and occasionally on lower leaf.

Form.—Globose.

Diameter.—Approximately 0.3 mm.

Color.—About Light Greyed-Yellow 162A becoming Dark Greyed-Orange 166A over time.

FLOWERS

General:

Time of beginning of flowering.—Medium for the San Joaquin Valley, Calif.

Flower blooming period.—First bloom: Approximately February 26 in Wasco, Calif. Full bloom: Approximately March 2 in Wasco, Calif.
Location of first bloom.—Lower third of tree canopy.
Location of full bloom.—Central part of the tree canopy.
Duration of bloom.—Approximately 10 days.
Flower diameter.—Medium, approximately 1.8 cm.
Flower form.—Non-showy.

Pedicels:
Length.—Long, approximately 12 mm.
Diameter.—Approximately 1.2 mm.
Color.—About Light Green 138C.
Pubescence.—Absent.

Petals:
Number.—5.
Arrangement.—Slightly overlapping.
Color.—About White 155A.
Length.—Medium, approximately 7.8 mm.
Width.—Approximately 7.9 mm.
Shape.—Circular.
Apex shape.—Rounded.
Base shape.—Narrows at point of attachment.
Surface texture.—Smooth.
Undulation of margins.—Medium.
Frequency of flowers with double petals.—None.
Claw.—Absent.

Sepals:
Number.—5.
Length.—Approximately 4 mm.
Width.—Approximately 3 mm.
Shape.—Triangular.
Color.—About Light Green 138C.
Surface texture.—Smooth.
Margins.—Undulating.
Positioning.—Adpressed to petals.
Frequency of flowers with double sepals.—None.

Stamens:
Number.—About 24-30; usually 28.
Average length.—Variable, ranging from 3 mm to 10 mm.
Filament color.—About White 155A.
Flower pollen color.—About Light Yellow-Orange 18A.
Position.—Perigynous.

Pistil:
Average length.—Approximately 3-4 mm.
Ovary diameter.—Approximately 2.2 mm.
Pubescence.—Absent.
Stigma extension in comparison to anthers.—Usually below.
Style frequency of supplementary pistils.—Few.

Receptical:
Depth.—Medium, approximately 4 mm.
Pubescence of inner surface.—Absent.
Pubescence of outer surface.—Absent.

FRUIT

General: (Description taken at firm-mature near Wasco, Kern County, Calif.).

Ripening:
Time of beginning of fruit ripening.—Late season.
Date of first pick.—Approximately August 11.
Date of last pick.—Approximately August 21.

Size:
Height.—Approximately 67 mm.
Diameter in line with suture plane.—Approximately 64 mm.
Diameter perpendicular to suture plane.—Approximately 64 mm.
Average weight.—Large, approximately 125 gm.

Peduncle:
Length of stem.—Short, approximately 7 mm.
Diameter of stem.—Approximately 3 mm.
Color of sent.—About Light Green 139D.

Shape:
Viewed from apex.—Circular.
Viewed in-line with suture.—Oblong.
Viewed from side, perpendicular to suture.—Oblong.
Symmetry.—Symmetric or slightly asymmetric.
Shape of base.—Depressed.
Shape of apex.—Rounded.

Fruit stem cavity:
Depth of stalk cavity.—Shallow; Approximately 7 mm.
Width of stalk cavity.—Medium; Approximately 11 mm.
Depth of suture.—Absent or very shallow.

Fruit skin:
Thickness.—Medium, typical of most varieties.
Flavor.—Mild.
Adherence to flesh.—Strong.
Surface texture.—Smooth.
Pubescence.—None.
Bloom on skin.—Strong.
Ground color.—About Light Yellow-Green 148D.
Overcolor.—About Medium Greyed-Red 181A.
Relative area of overcolor.—Small.
Pattern of overcolor.—Mottled.
Reticulation.—Absent.
Tendency to crack.—Rare.
Number of lenticels.—Few, about 12/cm².
Size of lenticels.—Small, approximately 0.4 mm.

Flesh at firm-mature harvest stage:
Ripens.—Evenly.
Texture.—Crisp-juicy.
Flavor.—Very sweet, medium acid, about 52 Brix: Acid.
Color.—About Dark Red-Purple 60A.
Firmness.—Firm; typically 10 lb pressure at harvest.
Juice.—Medium, able to squeeze free juice easily.
Acidity.—About 0.50% titratable acidity.
Sweetness.—High; about 26% Brix at harvest.
Adherence to stone.—Adherent.
Amount of fiber.—Medium.

Fruit use: Fresh market.
Fruit shipping and keeping characteristics: Excellent storage and shipping quality for 6 weeks without shrivel or softening.

Stone:
Stone freeness.—Cling.
Stone size.—Size: Small. Length: Approximately 23 mm. Diameter in line with suture plan: Approximately 15 mm. Diameter perpendicular to suture plane: Approximately 9 mm.
Color.—About Medium Greyed-Orange 170B when dried.
Position of maximum diameter.—Middle.
Shape from lateral view.—Medium elliptic.
Shape from ventral view.—Narrow elliptic.

Shape from basal view.—Narrow elliptic.
Base shape.—Nearly straight.
Apex shape.—Pointed.
Stone ridges.—Rounded throughout.
Stone outgrowing keel.—Partially developed.
Ventrical edge.—Thin with slight wing throughout.
Dorsal edge.—Narrow, shallow grooves throughout.
Fibers.—Not visible.

Symmetry in lateral view.—Symmetrical or slightly asymmetrical.
Texture of lateral surface.—Slightly rough.
Width of stalk-end.—Medium.
Tendency to split.—Rare.
What is claimed is:
1. A new and distinct variety of plum tree named ‘Suplum64’ as herein described and illustrated.

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