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MacIlvaine et al.

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(54) **PISTACHIO ROOTSTOCK TREE NAMED**
‘WONDERFUL PISTACHIO ROOTSTOCK #1’

(50) Latin Name: *Pistacia atlantica*×*P. integerrima*
Varietal Denomination: **Wonderful Pistachio**
Rootstock #1

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./152**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct variety of pistachio tree characterized by
producing large leaves, reddish-green new foliage, and dark
green mature foliage. The new variety is useful as a rootstock
for commercial nut bearing pistachio varieties.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species claimed: *Pistacia*
atlantica×*P. integerrima*.

Variety denomination: ‘WONDERFUL PISTACHIO
ROOTSTOCK #1’.

**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE
INVENTION**

This invention relates to the discovery and asexual propa-
gation of a new and distinct variety of Pistachio tree, *Pista-*
chio atlantica×*P. integerrima* cv. ‘Wonderful Pistachio Root-
stock #1’ as herein described and illustrated. The new variety
is a hybrid of *P. atlantica* and *P. integerrima* which was first
discovered on cultivated land from trees grown from seed
produced by a cross of the two parent species. The new variety
was discovered and further characterized, and propagated by
Joe MacIlvaine, Eric Mercure and John Etchamendy in the
San Joaquin Valley, Kern County, Calif. The initial discovery,
characterization and propagation of the new variety took
place from 2006 to 2010.

The new variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ is
characterized by producing large leaves, reddish-green new
foliage, dark green mature foliage and upright habits with
rounded crown. The new variety is useful as a rootstock to nut
bearing pistachio.

The new variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ was
first asexually propagated in 2007 by Eric Mercure by mer-
istem or shoot tip tissue culture at Southern San Joaquin
Valley in Kern County, Calif. and established and transmitted
through succeeding propagation by air-layering.

The male parent is *P. integerrima* and the female parent is
P. atlantica. The date of first sowing was 1990, and the date of
first flowering was 1996.

The new variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ dif-
fers from its male parent *P. integerrima* in that the leaves and

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leaflets are shorter. Also, the leaflet base is more rounded in
the new variety. In addition, the leaves are less red when
emerging and fall off sooner.

The new variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ dif-
fers from its female parent *P. atlantica* in that new variety is
more vigorous and is believed to be more resistant to verti-
cillium disease. The leaflets of the new variety are larger and
less rounded with a faster growth rate. The new variety has an
overall larger size canopy.

The new variety can be distinguished from other available
varieties by its yield characteristics. The closest available
varieties are ‘Pioneer Gold’ and ‘UCB1’, an *P. atlantica*×*P.*
integerrima hybrid. Yields on *P. vera* have been observed to
be consistently higher on mature trees on the new rootstock
variety when compare to Pioneer Gold and UCB1. The new
variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ can also be dis-
tinguished from ‘Pioneer Gold’ by the leaf shape.

The new ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ has been
shown to maintain its distinguishing characteristics through
successive asexual propagations by, for example, meristem or
shoot tip tissue culture and air layering.

Variations of the usual magnitude from the characteristics
described herein may occur with changes in growing condi-
tions, irrigation, fertilization, pruning, management and with
climatic variation.

The new variety ‘Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1’ was
analyzed to identify unique molecular markers. In one set of
experiments primers were used to amplify a variety of simple
sequence repeats (SSRs), essentially as described in Ven-
dramin et al. Mol. Ecology Res. (2010) 10(3):576-579. SSRs
were identified from a GT-enriched library prepared from *P.*
atlantica and *P. integerrima* DNA and from the literature
(Vendramin et al., Ahmad et al. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. (2003)
128(6):898-903 and Albaladejo et al. Mol. Ecology Res.
(2008) 8:904-906). Primers were prepared and used to

amplify relevant loci. 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' was compared to its parents, *P. atlantica* and *P. integerrima*, as well as UCB1 and two additional unpatented varieties. 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' was uniquely identified by products at about 625 and 655 bp using a primer set corresponding to EPV F013 from Vendramin et al.

DNA amplification fingerprinting (DAF) was also used to analyze 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1', essentially as described in Caetano-Anolles BioTechniques (1998) 25:472-480 and Trigiano, R. N. and G. Caetano-Anolles. HortTechnology (1998) 8(3):413-423. Two DAF primers, 8.6D and 8.6J (Trigiano, R. N. et al. HortTechnology (2004) 39(3):489-492) were able to distinguish 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' from 'UCB1', 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #2' (U.S. Plant Pat. application Ser. No. 13/998,774) and the two unpatented varieties, as well as from *P. atlantica* and *P. integerrima*. Primer 8.6D produced a doublet at about 410 bp that was only present in 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' and 'UCB1'. The doublet was not present in the parent varieties, 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #2' or in the unpatented varieties. Primer 8.6J was then able to distinguish 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' from 'UCB1', as it produced heavy bands at 150-200 bp in 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1'. These bands were not present for 'UCB1' or for the unpatented varieties. In 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #2' Primer 8.6J produced a single band at about 425 bp.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographic illustration FIG. 1 shows a mature tree with foliage of the new variety 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1'.

FIG. 2 shows a close up of the foliage.

Additionally, FIG. 3 shows a potted Nursery Tree that are ready to be budded. 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' is the tree on the far left on FIG. 3.

The colors of photographic illustration are as nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this type.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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 beginning with a capital letter designate values based upon The R.H.S. Colour Chart, published by The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 5th edition, 2007.

The descriptive matter which follows pertains to 'Wonderful Pistachio Rootstock #1' grown in the vicinity of the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, Calif. during 2002 to present, and is believed to apply to plants of the variety grown under similar conditions of soil and climate elsewhere.

PLANT

General:

Growth.—Upright tree with a rounded crown reaching 70-100 feet in height.

Leaf rachis:

Color.—About Medium Green 139C on the upper side with some Medium Red-Purple 64B on leaves closer to ground. About Light Green 141D on the lower side.

Length.—Approximately 5.25 in to 5.75 in.

Flowering: Only male flowers are produced. No fruit production.

Male flowers color.—About yellowish green.

Arrangement and size.—Large number of flowers in many tight, compact clusters giving the cluster a hairy appearance.

The description below was taken from 9 to 18 month old nursery trees.

FOLIAGE

Leaves:

Number of leaflets.—9-11 sometimes 7.

Average length.—Approximately 6 to 7.5 inches.

Average width.—Approximately 2.75 to 3.5 inches.

Leaflets:

Size.—Medium, approximately 3 inches (1.25 to 2.25 inches in length, $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches in width).

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Length.—Medium, approximately 2.5-3 inches.

Color of new leaflets.—About Dark Greyed-purple 183B for both upper and lower leaf surface.

Color of old leaflets.—Upper surface is about Dark Green 137A, Dark Green 137B and Yellow-Green 147B. Lower surface is about Dark Green 137B.

Edge.—Entire.

Petiole.—Petiolated.

Arrangement of petiolule.—Pinnately compound.

Arrangement of leaflets.—Alternate.

Shape of leaf at apex.—Acuminate.

Shape of leaf at base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Vein color.—About Dark Green 137A, Dark Green 137B and Yellow-Green 147B.

Texture of top surface.—Glabrous.

Texture of bottom of surface.—Glabrous.

Ribs:

Length.—Approximately 5.25 to 5.75 inches.

Color.—About Dark Greyed-Purple 183A-B on both sides of new leaflets. Medium Yellow-Green 139C to 144A-B on the top surface and underside color about Light Green 141D to about medium Yellow-Green 144B in older leaflets.

Petiole:

Length.—Approximately 1.25 to 2.5 inches

Color.—Same color as the ribs.

Diameter.—Less than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Veins, Ribs, and Petiole have some about Medium Red-Purple 64B coloring on leaves growing closer to the ground.

Growth:

Trunk shape.—Upright.

Height.—Trees are grown 2 to 3 ft in height before they are grafted with *P. vera* 'Kerman' or *P. vera* 'Peters' bud. Trees are not allowed to grow to maturity. Stem color: About Medium Grey-Brown 199D with lenticels Medium Greyed-Orange 177D. Fissures are Dark Brown about 200B. Stem diameter. Large, approximately 0.033 to 0.05 inches for trees at 2 to 3 ft. in height.

Bark texture.—Smooth, Slightly striated when young.

Vegetative bud size.—Approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$.

Vegetative bud color.—Reddish-gray, mostly About Dark Greyed-Orange 179A with some About Medium Brown 200D.

The description below was taken from 7 TO 9 year old trees.

FOLIAGE

Leaves:

Number of leaflets.—9-11 sometimes 7.

Average length.—Long, approximately 7.5 to 9 inches.

Average width.—Medium, approximately 4.25 to 3.5 inches.

Leaflets:

Size.—Medium, approximately 3 inches (3 to 3.825 inches in length, 0.75 to 1.125 inches in width)

Shape.—Lanceolate.

Color of new leaflets.—About Dark Greyed-purple 183B for both upper and lower leaf surface.

Color of old leaflets.—Upper surface is about Dark Green 136A, Dark Green 137B and Yellow-Green 147B. Lower surface is about Dark Green 137B.

Edge.—Entire.

Petiole.—Petiolated.

Arrangement of petiolule.—Pinnately compound.

Arrangement of leaflets.—Alternate.

Shape of leaf at apex.—Acuminate.

Shape of leaf at base.—Acute.

Margin.—Entire.

Venation.—Pinnate.

Vein color.—About Dark Green 137A, Dark Green 137B and Yellow-Green 147B.

Texture of top surface.—Glabrous.

Texture of bottom of surface.—Glabrous.

Rib:

Length.—Approximately 5.25 to 5.75 inches.

Color.—About Dark Greyed-Purple 183A-B to 139C Medium Green to Medium Yellow-Green 144A-B on the upper surface, and underside color about Light Green 141D to about Medium Yellow-Green 144B.

Petiole:

Length.—Approximately 1.25 to 2.5 inches

Color.—About Dark Greyed-Purple 183B to Medium Yellow-Green 144A-B.

Diameter.—Less than 1/8 inch.

Branch:

Size.—Approximately 2 ft to 4 ft in a single season.

Surface texture.—Smooth when young and slightly furrowed with ridges when older.

Growth:

Trunk shape.—Upright.

Stem color.—About Medium Grey-Brown 199D with fissures About Dark Brown 200B. Color ranges from About Medium Grey-Brown 199D with Medium Greyed-Orange 177D lenticels.

Trunk diameter.—Large, approximately 0.033 to 0.05 inches.

Bark texture.—Striated when young and slightly furrowed with age.

Vegetative bud size.—Approximately 0.25 inches to 0.5 inches.

Vegetative bud color.—Reddish-gray, a mixture of About Light Green 143D and About Medium Greyed-Orange 179D.

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct variety of pistachio tree as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

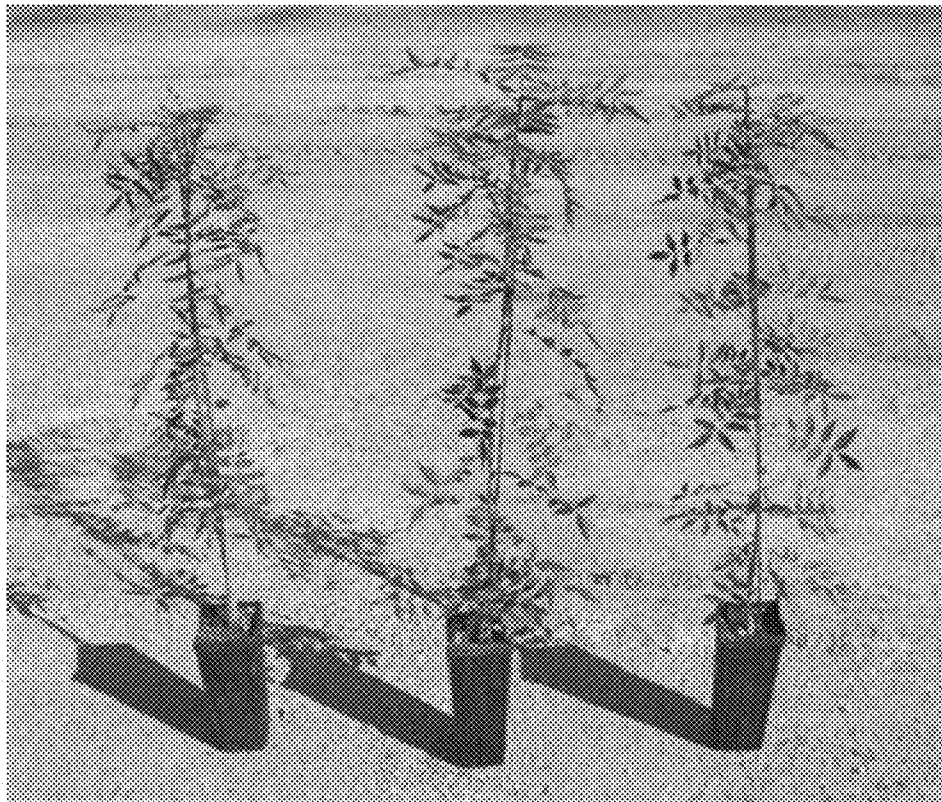


FIG. 3