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Fear et al.

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(54) **PLUM TREE NAMED
'SUPLUMTWENTYFOUR'**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct plum variety that has mildly sweet fruit, black skin, and bright red flesh with abundant juice is described. The new variety has consistently high productivity, setting crops even in rainy, cool bloom conditions.

1 Drawing Sheet

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**LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES
OF THE PLANT CLAIMED**

Prunus salicina.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

'Suplumtwentyfour'.

**BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE
INVENTION**

This invention relates to the discovery and asexual propagation of a new variety of plum, *Prunus salicina* cv. 'Suplumtwentyfour'. The new variety was first hybridized by Carlos D. Fear and selected by Bruce D. Mowrey. The new variety was evaluated by Bruce D. Mowrey and David W. Cain near Wasco, Kern County, Calif. The variety was originated by hybridization. The new variety is characterized by its high consistent productivity, setting crops even in rainy, cool bloom conditions.

The seed parent is 'Suplumtwelve' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,965) and the pollen parent is Sun World breeding selection '275-136' (unpatented). The parent varieties were first crossed in 1988, with the date of sowing of March 1989 and the date of first flowering being 1991. The new plum variety was first asexually propagated by Bruce D. Mowry near Wasco, Kern County, Calif. in May 1992, by budding onto Nemared rootstock.

The new variety 'Suplumtwentyfour' is similar to its seed parent the 'Suplumtwelve' variety in that it has approximately the same ripening date. It differs from its seed parent by having flesh that is more nearly solid, bright red color. The seed parent, in contrast, is more yellow in color in the region near the pit cavity until the fruit is at the soft ripe stage. 'Suplumtwentyfour' may be further distinguished from its seed parent by having larger size fruits, (averaging 7.0 cm in diameter compared to 6.3 cm for 'Suplumtwelve'), a rounder, less oblate shape, and a smoother skin surface as compared to the more corrugated skin surface texture of the seed parent 'Suplumtwelve'.

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The new 'Suplumtwentyfour' variety is distinguished from its pollen parent '275-136' (unpatented) by yielding larger fruits, averaging 7.0 cm. in diameter compared to the 6.0 cm fruits of '275-136'. Fruits of 'Suplumtwentyfour' are 5 rounder as compared to the more oblate shape of '275-136' fruits. The flesh of 'Suplumtwentyfour' is brighter and more nearly solid red, developing earlier than in '275-136', which has a more yellow flesh in the pit region until the fruit is fully ripe. The new variety is more consistently productive than 10 '275-136', setting full crops in rainy, cool bloom conditions while '275-136' sets poorly under such conditions. The new variety ripens approximately nine days after its pollen parent '275-136'.

The new plum variety cv. 'Suplumtwentyfour' most 15 nearly resembles the 'Suplumeleven' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 4,902) variety. It may be distinguished from the 'Suplumeleven' by having more intense red flesh coloration which develops earlier in the maturation process than 'Suplumeleven'. 'Suplumtwentyfour' ripens approximately 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095 2100 2105 2110 2115 2120 2125 2130 2135 2140 2145 2150 2155 2160 2165 2170 2175 2180 2185 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sive asexual propagations by, for example, budding onto 'Nemared' rootstock.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURE

The accompanying drawing in FIG. 1 illustrates in full color.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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.

The descriptive matter which follows pertains to 11 year old 'Suplumtwentylfour' plants grown in the vicinity of Wasco, Kern County, during 2000, and is believed to apply to plants of the variety grown under similar conditions of soil and climate elsewhere:

TREE

General:

Height of tree.—Reduced by pruning to approximately 300 to 400 cm in height and maintained at about 250 cm wide. *Vigor:* vigorous. *shoot growth rate* is about 45 to 100 cm in one year on a mature tree. (*Growth rate* is affected by cultural and environmental factors).

Habit.—Semi-upright.

Density of foliage.—Medium.

Shape.—Vase formed.

Hardiness.—Hardy under central California conditions.

Productivity.—Very productive.

Fruit bearing.—Regular bearer.

Root stock.—Nemared.

Trunk:

Shape.—Round.

Diameter at about 30 cm above soil level.—About 20 cm.

Texture.—Medium shaggy; varies with age.

Color.—About 200 D.

Branches:

Shape.—Round.

Diameter at 70 cm above the soil line.—About 7 cm to 9 cm.

Surface texture.—Medium shaggy.

Color.—About 166B to about 200C.

Surface appearance.—Dull.

Lenticels:

Number.—Medium.

Diameter.—About 0.8 mm.

Color.—About 156B.

LEAVES

General:

Average length.—About 10.1 cm.

Average width.—About 3.5 cm.

Size.—Large.

Outline.—Elliptic.

Profile.—Up folded.

Leaf blade tip.—Curved downwardly slightly.

Angle of tip.—Acute.

Margin.—Crenate.

Undulation of margin.—Slight.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Cuneate.

Thickness.—Medium.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Vein color.—144B.

Upper surface:

Color.—About 137A.

Glossiness.—Medium.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Surface texture.—Smooth.

Surface appearance.—Semi-glossy.

Lower surface:

Color.—About 137C.

Glossiness.—Weak.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Surface texture.—Smooth.

Surface appearance.—Dull.

Petiole:

Length.—Medium, about 1.1 cm.

Thickness.—Medium, about 2 mm.

Color.—About 144A, with highlights of red 47B.

Glands:

Average number.—4.

Positioning.—(a) On petiole; (b) Opposite.

Size.—Small, about 1 mm.

Shape.—Globose.

Color.—About Green 139D.

Stipules:

Persistence.—Persistent.

Wood (leaf) buds:

Shape.—Conical.

Size (on a typical flowering shoot of about 5 mm in diameter).—About 2 mm wide at widest point, by about 2.5 mm long.

Position relative to shoot.—Slightly. — held out.

Support.—Not decurrent.

Time of bud burst.—Occurs at about first bloom date.

Flowering shoots:

Anthocyanin coloration.—Absent.

Intensity.—Medium.

Thickness.—Medium, about 0.4 cm.

Internode length.—Medium, about 2.6 cm.

Density of buds.—Medium.

Distribution.—Isolated in groups of 2 or more on spurs and one year old shoots.

Ratio of wood (leaf) buds to flowering shoots.— Ranging from 1:4 to 1:16.

FLOWERS

Flower-buds:

Hardiness.—Hardy under California conditions.

Size on a typical flowering shoot of about 5 mm in diameter.—About 3 mm wide at widest point by about 3.5 mm long.

Length.—Medium.

Shape.—Ovoid.

Positioning.—Free.

Pubescence.—Absent.

Color.—About 177A.

General:

Date of first bloom.—Feb. 20, 2000.

Date of full bloom.—Feb. 25, 2000.

Time of bloom.—Medium, as compared with similar varieties in the growing area of Wasco, Kern County, Calif.

Duration of bloom.—Medium, about 10 days.
Size (diameter of the fully open flower).—Medium, about 2.2 cm.
Shape.—Rosaceous.
Petals.—Free.
Color (fully opened flower).—White.

Peduncle:
Diameter.—About 0.9 mm.
Color.—About 145A.
Length.—0.8 mm.
Pubescence.—Absent.

Receptacle:
Depth.—Medium.
Pubescence of inner surface (at white bud stage).—Absent.
Pubescence of outer surface.—Absent.

Sepals:
Positioning.—Adpressed to petals.
Shape.—Elliptic.
Color.—About 145A.
Width.—About 2 mm at widest point.
Length.—About 2.5 mm long.
Pubescence of inner surface.—Absent.
Pubescence of outer surface.—Absent.
Frequency of flowers with double sepals.—None.

Petals:
Frequency of flowers with double petals.—None.
Width.—Medium, about 0.6 cm.
Length.—About 1 cm.
Shape.—Transverse broad elliptic.
Shape of apex.—Rounded.
Claw length.—Short.
Margin waviness.—Medium.
Shape of base.—Petal narrows as it nears the base.
Base angle.—Medium.
Division of upper margin.—Entire.
Pubescence of inner surface.—Absent.
Pubescence of outer surface.—Absent.
Color (inner surface).—White.
Color (outer surface).—White.

Stigma:
Position (as compared with anthers).—Below.

Anthers:
Color (just before dehiscence).—About Yellow 23C, with slight shadings of about red 45D.

Pollen:
Color.—About 14D.

Stamens:
Position.—Perigynous.

Pistil:
Length at full bloom.—About 7 mm.
Frequency of supplementary pistils.—Absent.
Number.—Always one.

Ovary:
Length.—About 0.9 mm.
Color.—About 143A.
Pubescence.—Absent.

Style:
Shape.—Slender.
Color.—About 145B.
Pubescence (of base).—Absent.

FRUIT

General:
Maturity when described.—Firm-ripe.
Date.—Jun. 19, 2000.

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Uniformity.—Uniform.
Size.—Large; about 145 g.
Length from stem to apex.—About 6.5 cm.
Diameter in line with suture plane.—About 7.0 cm.
Diameter perpendicular to suture plane.—About 7.0 cm.
Form.—Rounded.
Position of maximum diameter.—Middle towards.
Symmetry about the suture.—Nearly symmetric.
Season ripening.—Early.
Use.—Fresh market.
Keeping quality.—Good.
Resistance to.—Insects: medium; typical of Japanese plums. Diseases: medium; typical of Japanese plums. Shipping quality: Good. Fruit stored for 3 weeks at 38° F. to 42° F. showed no internal browning or mealiness of flesh.

Suture: An inconspicuous line that is shallow and extends from base to apex.

Ventral surface:
Shape.—Rounded slightly.
Lips.—Equal.
Depression of apex.—Distinct.
Pistil base.—Not persisting.
Pubescence at apex.—Absent.
Density of apex pubescence.—Absent.

Stem cavity:
Shape.—Rounded and flaring.
Depth.—About 1.5 cm.
Breadth.—About 2.1 cm.
Markings.—None.

Base:
Shape.—Rounded.

Apex:
Shape.—Slightly depressed.

Pistil point:
Shape.—Oblique.

Stem:
Length.—Medium, about 0.88 cm.
Color.—About 143C.
Adherence to stone.—Stem adheres to stone moderately but separates from the stone more readily than from the tree.

Skin:
Thickness.—Medium.
Texture at harvest.—Smooth and crisp.
Reticulation.—Absent.
Roughness.—Absent.
Taste.—Tart.
Tenacity.—Tenacious to flesh.
Tendency to crack.—None in wet season.
Color.—About Greyed-Purple 187A, becoming black when ripe.
Down (pubescence) None.
Bloom.—Present.

Flesh:
Color.—About Red 46A.
Surface of the pit cavity.—About 46A when ripe.
Amygdalin.—Wanting.
Juice.—Abundant.
Sugar content.—Medium (about 14–15% SS).
Texture.—Medium; fine; melting.
Fibres.—Few.
Ripens.—Even.
Flavor.—Mildly sweet.
Aroma.—Wanting.

Eating quality.—Good.
Stone/flesh ratio.—1.3 cm: 7 cm.

STONE

General:

Adherence to flesh.—Semi-free.
Fibres.—Retains short fiber.
Size.—Medium.
Length.—About 2.2 cm.
Breadth.—About 1.9 cm.
Width of stalk end.—About 0.3 cm.
Angle of stalk end.—Right angle.
Thickness.—About 1.1 cm.
Form (profile).—Globose.
Form (ventral view).—Flattened.
Base.—Nearly straight.
Hilum.—Oblong.
Apex.—Rounded with a small, sharp point.
Position of maximum breadth.—Middle.
Sides.—Equal.
Surface.—ridged.
Outgrowing keel.—Partly developed.
Ridges.—Jagged.
Pits.—Angular.
Ventral edge.—Thin with wing toward base and extending throughout.
Dorsal edge.—Medium thickness, with shallow groove throughout.
Color of stone.—About Greyed-Orange 164C.
Tendency to split.—None.
Kernel length (when dried).—About 15 mm.
Kernel diameter in line with suture plane (when dried).—About 9 mm.

Kernel diameter perpendicular to suture plane (when dried).—About 4 mm.
Kernel astringency.—Bitter.
Kernel shape.—Oval.
Kernel viability.—Viable.

Suplumtwentfour: Table of R.H.S. Color Codes:

	R.H.S. Color Code
<u>LEAVES:</u>	
Upper Surface:	137A
Lower Surface:	137C
Glands:	139D
<u>FLOWERS:</u>	
Flower Buds:	177A
Anthers:	Just before dehiscence: 23C with slight shadings of 45D
Pollen:	14D
<u>FRUIT:</u>	
Skin:	187A (becoming black when ripe)
Flesh:	46A
	Surface of the pit cavity when ripe: 46A
<u>STONE:</u>	
Stone color:	164C

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct plum tree as herein described and illustrated.

* * * * *

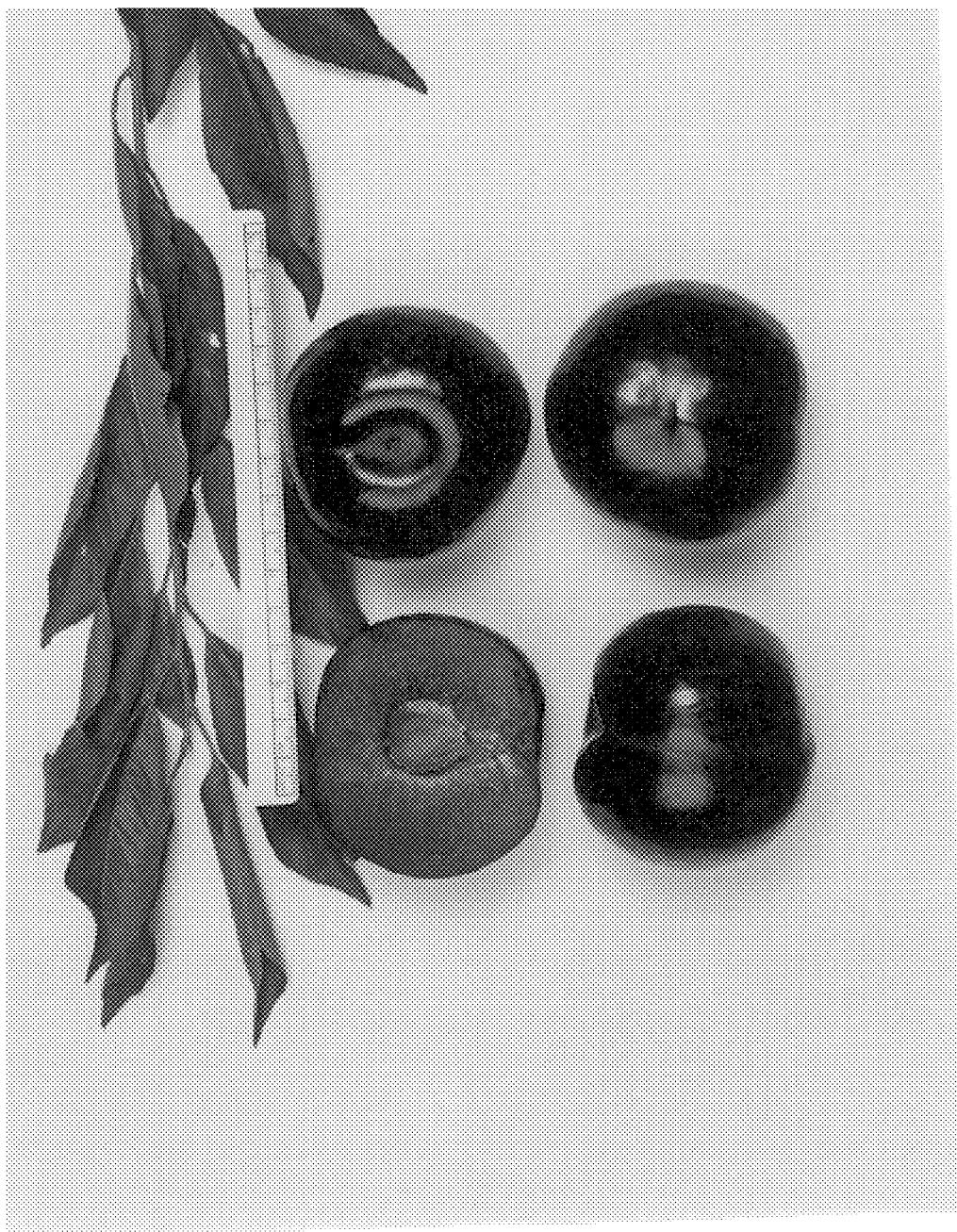


FIG. 1