

[54] PEACH TREE "MAY SUN"

[75] Inventor: Thomas O. Chamberlin, Sr., Visalia, Calif.

[73] Assignees: Metzler Investments; Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, both of Del Rey, Calif.

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Primary Examiner—Robert E. Bagwill  
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Worrel & Worrel

### [57] ABSTRACT

A new and distinct variety of peach tree which is characterized by a date of maturity of approximately May 20 to May 25 under the ecological conditions prevailing at Del Rey, Calif., in the central part of the San Joaquin Valley of California, and which further is distinguished as to novelty by producing fruit which have a noteworthy flavor and desirable handling characteristics.

1 Drawing Sheet

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### BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of Peach Tree hereinafter denominated vari-  
etally as "May Sun" and which is generally similar in its  
overall physical characteristics to the June Lady Peach  
Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 3,022), of which it is a newly  
found second generation seedling, but from which it is  
distinguished therefrom and characterized principally  
as to novelty by bearing fruit which are ripe for com-  
mercial harvesting and shipment apporoximately May  
20 through May 25 under the ecological conditions  
prevailing in the San Joaquin Valley of Central Califor-  
nia and which further produces fruit which have a good  
flavor and excellent shipping and storage characteris-  
tics.

In a continuing effort to upgrade the quality of his  
employer's fruit products, the inventor is constantly on  
the alert to locate any new varieties that may appear  
from time to time as chance seedlings or mutations in  
the commercial orchards under his supervision and  
control. In connection with these labors, the applicant,  
in 1977, discovered a second generation chance seedling  
which originated from a June Lady Peach Tree (U.S.  
Plant Pat. No. 3,022), in the cultivated area of his em-  
ployer's seedling Lot #20 which is located on the south-  
west corner of Jefferson and Del Rey Aves. near his  
employer's business address of 5286 South Del Rey  
Ave. in Del Rey, Calif.

### ORIGIN AND ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present variety of peach was a second generation  
chance seedling which originated from a June Lady  
Peach Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 3,022), and which was  
discovered within cultivated area of Seedling Lot #20,  
under the ownership and control of the H. P. Metzler &  
Sons Company of Del Rey, Calif. The subject variety  
was observed at that time to have desirable characteris-  
tics and it was thereafter asexually reproduced by the  
inventor by removing buds from the original chance  
seedling and budding them into test seedlings which  
were later planted in a test plot located at 5286 South  
Del Rey Ave., in Del Rey, Calif. in 1979. These budded  
seedlings have been continually observed by the inven-  
tor and it has been subsequently determined that the  
progeny produced by these budded test seedlings pos-

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sess the same distinctive characteristics as the original  
chance seedling.

The peach tree of the present invention is noteworthy  
in ripening approximately May 20 through May 25  
under the ecological conditions prevailing at Del Rey,  
Calif. and further is characterized as to novelty by being  
positively influenced by the cultural practice of gir-  
dling, the subject variety producing fruit which mature  
earlier and do not have split pits, providing, however,  
that the girdling is accomplished at the appropriate time  
during the growing season.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawing is a color photograph of  
a characteristic twig bearing typical leaves, five mature  
fruit showing their external coloration sufficiently mat-  
ure for harvesting and shipment, one fruit of the sub-  
ject variety dissected in the axial plane to illustrate the  
flesh coloration and a representative stone, all of the  
subject variety.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring more specifically to the pomological de-  
tails of this new and distinct variety of peach tree, the  
following has been observed under the ecological con-  
ditions prevailing at the orchard of the inventor's em-  
ployer which is located in Del Rey, Calif. All major  
color code designations are by reference to the Inter-  
Society Color Council, National Bureau of Standards.  
Common color names are also employed occasionally.

### TREE

Size:

Generally.—Average.

Vigor:

Generally.—Very vigorous.

Productivity: Very good.

Regularity of bearing: Regular.

Trunk:

Size.—Average.

Surface texture.—The subject variety displays nor-  
mal peach bark.

Lenticels.—Numbers — Average, having approxi-  
mately 18–20 lenticels per square inch.

Color.—Bark — Yellowish-brown, (81 d. gy. y.  
Br.).

## Branches:

*Size.*—Average.

*Surface texture.*—Average.

*Color.*—Brown, (81 d. gy. y. Br.).

*Lenticels.*—Numbers — Approximately 18–20 per square inch. *Size* — Average.

## LEAVES

## Size:

*Generally.*—Average.

*Length.*—Approximately seven to eight inches (177.8 mm.–203.3 mm.).

*Width.*—Approximately  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "–2", (44.25–50.8 mm.).

*Shape.*—Lanceolate.

*Color.*—Upper Surface — Green (125 m. 01. G.). Lower Surface — a lighter shade of green, (125 m. y. G.).

*Marginal form.*—Generally — Serrate.

## Petiole:

*Length.*—Approximately  $5/16$ " to  $3/8$ " (7.938 mm.–15.875 mm.).

*Thickness.*—Approximately  $1/16$ " to  $3/32$ ", (1.588 mm.–2.381 mm.).

## Stem glands:

*Numbers.*—Variable, the subject variety may display one or two pair of stem glands, depending upon the size of the leaf inspected.

*Position.*—The stem glands are found in pairs on each side of the stem and at the base of the leaf.

*Size.*—Generally — Average, however, they will vary in size in direct proportion with the size of the leaf.

*Type.*—Reniform.

*Color.*—Green, approximately (102 m. g. Y.).

## Flower buds:

*Size.*—Generally — Small when observed at the red bud stage.

*Length.*—Approximately  $1/4$ ", (6.35 mm.).

*Diameter.*—Approximately  $3/16$ ", (4.762 mm.).

*Shape.*—Generally — Rounded and slightly elongated.

*Pistil.*—Position — The pistil and the stamen will be exposed, just prior to the full opening of the flower, in a position approximately  $1/8$ " to  $3/16$ " past the petal, (approximately 3.175 mm.–4.762 mm.).

## Flowers:

*Date of bloom.*—The subject variety blooms approximately the end of February to as late as March 4 at Del Rey, Calif.

*Size.*—Generally — Small to average in size.

*Diameter of each petal.*—Approximately  $3/16$ " (4.762 mm.).

*Length of each petal.*—Approximately  $3/8$ ", (9.525 mm.).

*Color.*—Petals — The outer edge of each petal is a dark pink, (254 v. p. R.); the center of each petal is a lighter pink, (247 s.p. Pk).

## FRUIT

*Date of maturity when described:* Ripe for commercial harvesting and shipment approximately May 20 to May 25 at Del Rey, Calif.

*Girdling.*—The inventor has discovered that the subject variety "May Sun" reacts positively to the cultural practice of girdling, the subject practice not causing the pits of the fruit to split.

*Date of girdling.*—The inventor has discovered that the best date to girdle the subject variety is approximately 30 to 35 days after the variety achieves 90% of full blossom.

*Effect of girdling.*—Girdling the subject variety increases the size of the fruit produced thereby and will accelerate the harvesting date of same.

*Uniformity.*—Noteworthy, the fruit produced is uniformly round and has a base of medium width and an almost flat apex area.

*Size.*—Axial diameter — Approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ", (63.5 mm.–82.5 mm.). Diameter — Transverse in the suture plane — Approximately  $2\frac{3}{8}$ ", (66.6 mm.). Diameter — Transverse at right angles to the suture plane — Approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ", (63.5–82.5 mm.).

## Form:

*Uniformity.*—Good.

*Symmetry.*—Symmetrical.

*Suture.*—The suture appears as a smooth and distinct line which extends from the base to the apex and is approximately  $3/4$ " in length, (95.2 mm.).

## Ventral surface:

*Shape.*—Rounded, and occasionally slightly flat.

## Stem cavity:

*Shape.*—Rounded, and approximately  $3/8$ " deep, (9.52 mm.).

## Base:

*Shape.*—The base appears wide and slightly rounded.

## Apex:

*Shape.*—Slightly rounded and may appear almost flat.

*Pistil point:* Very small and may appear receded.

## Stem:

*Size.*—Average.

*Length.*—Approximately  $3/8$ ", (9.52 mm.).

*Thickness.*—Approximately  $3/16$ ", (4.762 mm.).

## Skin:

*Thickness.*—Average.

*Texture.*—Generally — Smooth and tenacious to flesh.

*Color.*—Variable, dark red to bright yellow, (12 s. Red) to (17 v.d. Red) and (83. brill Y).

*Tendency to crack.*—Not observed.

*Pubescence.*—Light.

## Flesh:

*Color.*—Yellow, (67 brill. OY).

*Juice production.*—Very juicy and slightly acidic.

*Aroma.*—Slight.

*Fibers.*—Not considered fibrous.

*Flavor.*—Noteworthy. Each peach has an excellent flavor.

*Ripening.*—Even.

*Eating quality.*—Exceptional

## Stone:

*Generally.*—The stone of the subject variety is not a full freestone and therefore must be considered clinging stone.

*Fibers.*—None evident.

*Size.*—Length — Approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", (38.1 mm.).

Width — Approximately  $7/8$ ", (22.225 mm.).

*Thickness.*—Approximately  $11/16$ ", (17.46 mm.).

*Color.*—Generally — Yellow (71 m. OY.).

*Form.*—Ovoid.

*Base.*—Shape — Very small and flat.

*Apex.*—Shape — Pointed.

*Sides.*—Texture — Rough.

*Ridges.*—Size — Average in size and approximately 1/32" in depth, (0.79 mm.).

*Tendency to split.*—Providing that girdling of the variety is performed at the appropriate time, the tendency to split is slight.

*Use of the variety.*—Fresh market.

*Storage quality.*—Noteworthy, the subject variety has been kept in cold storage for periods in excess of 30 days with no deleterious effects noted.

*Shipping quality.*—Due in part to the firm nature of the flesh and the tough skin, the subject variety is expected to have noteworthy shipping characteristics.

Although the new variety of peach tree possesses the described characteristics when grown under the ecological conditions prevailing in Del Rey, Calif., in the Central part of the San Joaquin Valley, it is to be understood that variations of the usual magnitude and charac-

teristics incident to changes in growing conditions, fertilization, pruning and pest control are to be expected.

Having thus described my new variety of peach tree, what is new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A new and distinct variety of peach tree substantially as illustrated and described and which is somewhat similar to the June Lady Peach Tree (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 3,022), from which it was derived as a chance seedling but from which it is distinguished therefrom and characterized as to novelty by bearing fruit which are ripe for commercial harvesting and shipment approximately May 20 through May 25 at Del Rey, Calif., and which further displays the desirable trait of being responsive to the cultural practice of girdling and produces fruit having desirable handling and shipping characteristics.

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