

**From:** [Michael Uchneat](#)  
**To:** [Fee.Setting](#)  
**Subject:** comments attached  
**Date:** Friday, December 02, 2016 5:47:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [LETTER PTO NEW FEES 120216.doc](#)

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Please see the attached regarding fee changes at the US Patent Office.

Thanks you for taking comments.

Mike

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December 1, 2016

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is in reference to the proposed U.S. Patent Fees, specifically the significant increases for U.S. Plant Patent applications.

The U.S. public greatly benefits from the introduction of new plant varieties. The process of breeding, selection and development of these new plant varieties typically takes a number of years and there is significant cost prior to introduction. The cost of a U.S. Plant Patent is one of these costs and a significant increase in the U.S. Patent Office's fees could be damaging to many plant breeders' programs and the small businesses they represent.

These new products are not sold in high volumes nor at a high cost per unit. Therefore, it can take many years to "payback" the development costs, including the patent costs.

Increasing the U.S. Plant Patent fees will increase the financial burden on these plant breeders and poses a financial barrier to the Applicants/Assignees from procuring U.S. Plant Patents for their new plants.

On behalf of the U.S. Plant Patent Applicants/Assignees (plant breeders, plant breeding companies, licensees), we respectfully request that the U.S. Patent Office reconsider these excessive increases on U.S. Plant Patent applications.

Thank-you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael S. Uchneat  
GardenGenetics, LLC