

[54] PRIVET PLANT  
[76] Inventor: Byron E. Wates, 9403 Mirror Pond  
Ct., Fairfax, Va. 22031, executrix; E.  
Inez Wates  
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Primary Examiner—Robert E. Bagwill

[57] ABSTRACT  
A new and distinct variety of Ligustrum distinguished  
by its small leaves and dense growth habit.

3 Drawing Figures

1

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

This new variety of Ligustrum was found by me as a  
chance seedling among numerous other seedlings under  
a Chinese Privet growing in a yard in Alabama. I propa-  
gated the plant asexually by stem cuttings and have  
twelve of these original cuttings which are now nine-  
teen years old. Both these older plants and successive  
generations have retained the distinctive characteristics.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photograph No. 1 shows the  
Wates Privet (L.) compared to a standard Chinese  
Privet (R.), photograph No. 2 shows the height to  
which unpruned cuttings grew in nine years, and photo-  
graph No. 3 shows the cuttings used as a miniature  
edging held to a height and spread of less than 1' by  
pruning twice a year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following is a description of my new Privet plant  
as observed at my former home and nursery location at  
4118 Olley Lane, Fairfax, Va., with color designations  
according to The R.H.S. Colour Chart published by  
The Royal Horticultural Society of London, England.

Origin: Chance seedling.  
Parentage: Chinese Privet (unpatented).  
Botanic name.—*Ligustrum sinensis*.  
Common name.—Chinese Privet.  
Growth rate: About 6 to 12 inches per year.  
Growth habit:  
Natural.—Narrow, upright.  
Sheared.—Dense, 4 inch hedge possible in 2 to 3  
years from rooted cuttings.

2

Branching character: Very twiggy; shearing empha-  
sizes this characteristic.

Foliage: Abundant — leaf nodes about 5 to 8 millime-  
ters apart.

Leaf.—Size: Mature leaf — average 8 millimeters  
long and 5 millimeters wide. Shape: Ovate.  
Color: Mature leaves — Upper side — Yellow-  
green 147A. Under side — Yellow-green 146A.  
Immature leaves — Upper side — Yellow-green  
144B. Upper side — Yellow-green 145A. Tex-  
ture: Smooth. Petiole: About 1 to 3 millimeters  
long.

My new Privet does not resemble any other ligustrum  
except in a miniaturized form. Because of its tiny leaves  
and dense growth, it is particularly suited for use as a  
dwarf edging for formal gardens or for areas where a  
small scale plant is desirable. Its appearance and growth  
habit are novel and distinctive. It has never blossomed.

This new form of Privet plant is evergreen in the  
Fairfax, Va. area, particularly so if the new growth is  
sheared late in the summer. In severe winters it defoli-  
ates somewhat. This Privet plant has been tested for  
hardiness as far north as New Hampshire, Connecticut,  
two locations in Maryland, and one location in the  
mountain area of Virginia near Woodstock. It has  
proven completely evergreen in the two Maryland  
locations and completely hardy in all other test areas,  
though it completely defoliates in the most northern test  
areas.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinctive variety of Ligustrum sub-  
stantially as herein shown and described, particularly  
characterized by its small leaves, dense foliage and  
twiggy growth habit.

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FIG. 2

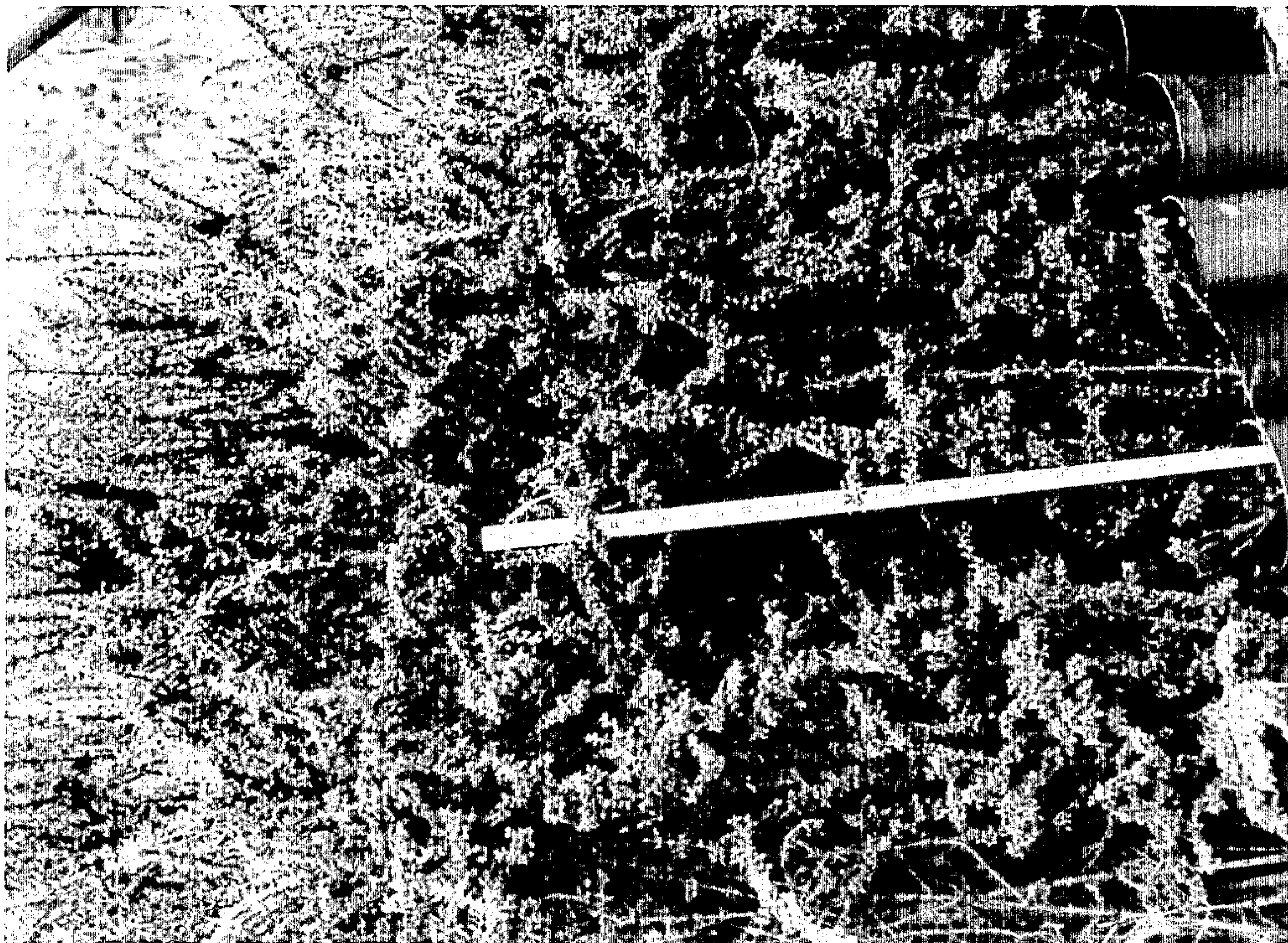


FIG. 1





FIG. 3

