

[54] FORSYTHIA PLANT NAMED 'FIESTA'

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[57] ABSTRACT

A new variety of Forsythia having distinctive varie-  
gated foliage a slower growth rate and a denser growth  
habit.

2 Drawing Sheets

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The present invention relates to a new and distinct  
selection of Forsythia, named Forsythia cultivar *Forsy-*  
*thia* × *intermedia* 'Fiesta' which I discovered in a group  
of *Forsythia* × *intermedia* 'Lynwood' at Farmington  
Valley Nursery, 138 Waterville Road, Avon, Conn. in  
1977.

Among the novel characteristics of this new variety  
which distinguish it from 'Lynwood' and from other  
varieties of which I am aware are:

- (a) 'Fiesta' exhibits unusually attractive tricolor varie-  
gated foliage;
- (b) 'Fiesta' exhibits unusually attractive pale yellow  
flowers;
- (c) 'Fiesta' exhibits a slower growth rate than the 'Lyn-  
wood';
- (d) 'Fiesta' has a spreading habit, in contrast to 'Lyn-  
wood' which has a vase habit that eventually weeps  
and 'Fiesta' has a shorter internode length than 'Lyn-  
wood'; and
- (e) The fall color of the foliage of 'Fiesta' lacks purple  
blotches which characterize the fall coloration of  
'Lynwood'.

The blooming dates, blooming pattern, i.e. an equal  
distribution of flowers along the stem, bark and lenticels  
of 'Fiesta' are substantially the same as those of the  
'Fiesta'.

There are no mature specimens of 'Fiesta' as of the  
filing of the present application. The above comparisons  
were made between two plants, i.e.:

a specimen of *Forsythia* × *intermedia* 'Lynwood' and a  
periclinal chimera sport from a specimen of 'Lynwood',  
i.e. a specimen of 'Fiesta'. Each of the specimens was  
five years old and grown in a substantially identical root  
zone volume, i.e. a 2 gallon container. Each of the speci-  
mens was pruned annually and the comparisons are  
therefore based only on current growth.

The new variety 'Fiesta' has been propagated solely  
by taking cuttings. Mound or stool layering has not  
been used as a propagation technique. Seed set of 'Fi-  
esta' has not been observed and it is not known whether  
'Fiesta' produces viable pollen. Asexual reproduction of  
'Fiesta' by cutting performed at Farmington Valley  
Nursery indicates that the foregoing and other distin-  
guishing characteristics come true to form and are es-  
tablished and transmitted through successive propaga-  
tions.

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The accompanying drawings show a typical speci-  
men of the new variety, depicted in color as nearly true  
as possible.

FIG. 1 shows the distinctive variegated foliage of the  
new variety.

FIG. 2 shows the denser growth habit of the new  
variety.

FIG. 3 shows the flower of the new variety.

Color terminology used herein is in accord with *The*  
*Horticultural Color Chart*, by Robert F. Wilson, Henry  
Stone & Son, Ltd, 1938 and refers to page and plate  
numbers in the aforementioned chart.

FLOWER

Blooming Habit

A. Bud:

1. *Size*.—2 mm at base, 3 mm long.
2. *Form*.—Superposed with auxiliary bud set.
3. *Color*.—Light tan at base of scale, to dark brown  
at tip.
4. *Sepals*.—7 mm, pale white with a green stripe.
5. *Peduncle*.—Calyx deeply 4 lobed, persistent.

B. Bloom:

1. *Size*.—Approximately 2–3 cm.
2. *Borne*.—1–6.
3. *Form*.—Perfect.
4. *Petalage*.—4 petals.
5. *Color*.—Chrome yellow (light), page 93, plate  
605/1 to sulfur yellow, page 1, plate #1/3.

C. Petals:

1. *Form*.—Oblong.
2. *Arrangement*.—4.
3. *Persistence*.—2–3 weeks.
4. *Fragrance*.—Scentless.

PLANT

A. Overall size and habit:

1. *Internodal length*.—2.2 cm.

B. Foliage

1. *Shape*.—Ovate-oblong to oblong lanceolate.
2. *Base*.—Acute to rounded.
3. *Tip*.—Acute.
4. *Margins*.—Serrate upper one-half.
5. *Width*.—2.4 to 4.1 cm.
6. *Length*.—4.4 to 7.1 cm.
7. *Arrangement*.—Opposite.
8. *Color*.—The leaves are variegated and exhibit  
three distinct hues: (i) The central portion of the  
leaf is colored spinach green, page 187, plate

Plant 7,523

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#09<sup>60</sup>. (ii) The margins of the leaf are colored yellow. The intensity of the yellow color varies with intensity of illumination. The brightest hue exhibited is sulphur yellow, page 1, plate 1/3. The yellow color of the margins in lower intensity light are graduated tints of Barium yellow, page 131, plate #s 50<sup>3/3</sup>, 50<sup>3/2</sup> and 50<sup>3/1</sup>. (iii) Patches of pod green, plate 120, plate #0<sup>61/1</sup> are present between the central portion of the leaf

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and the leaf margin where a layer of yellow mesophyll overlaps a layer of green mesophyll. Trifoliate leaves do not appear.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct variety of Forsythia as substantially shown and described herein, that is characterized particularly as a novelty by the unique combination of distinct foliage construction, pale yellow flowers, slow growth rate, reduced internodal length and a denser branching habit.

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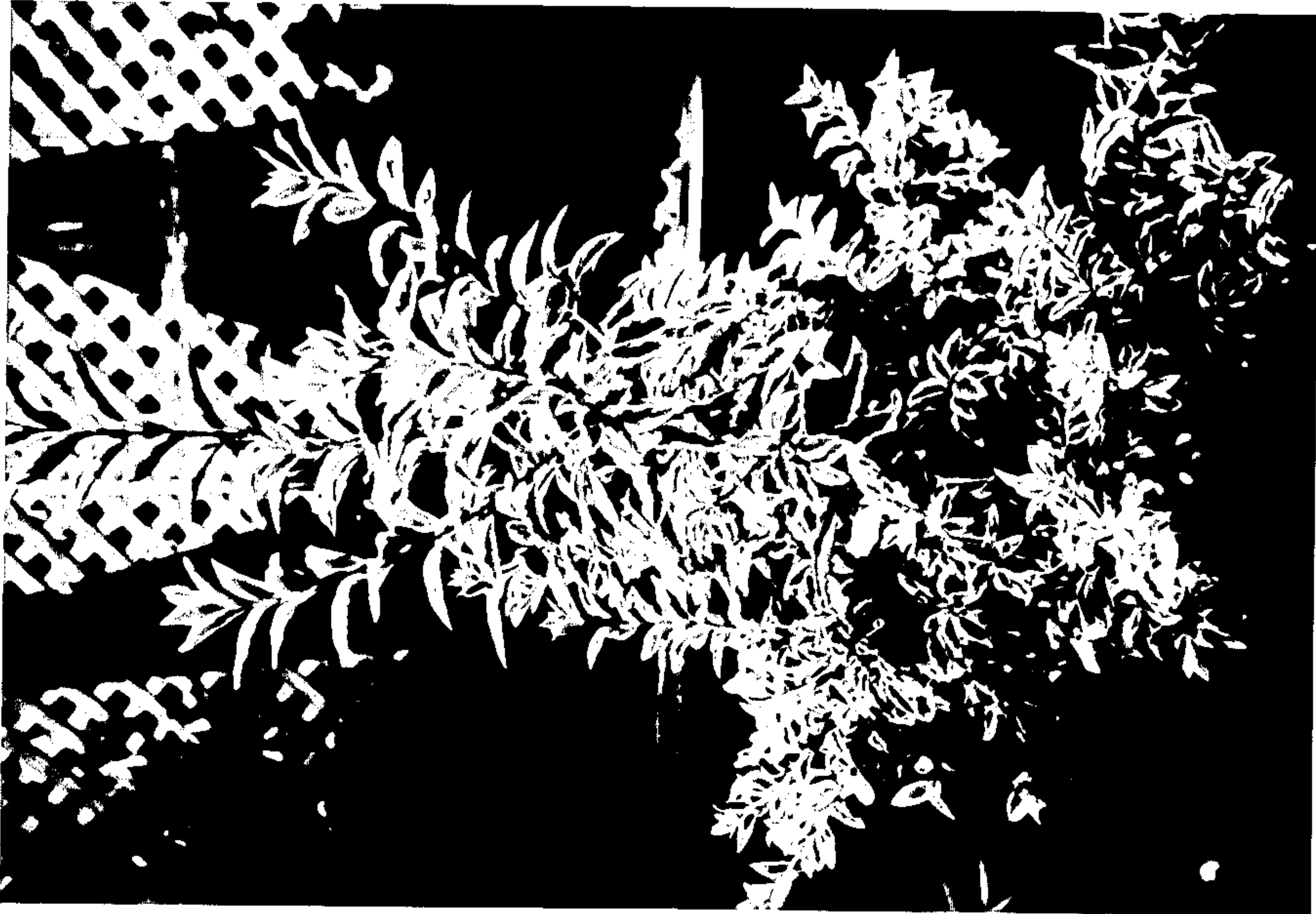
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*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 3*