



US00PP09399P

United States Patent [19]
Berry

[11] Patent Number: Plant 9,399
[45] Date of Patent: Dec. 12, 1995

[54] RAPHIOLEPIS INDICA VARIETY NAMED
‘CONIA’
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[73] Assignee: Flowerwood Nursery, Inc., Loxley,
Ala.
[21] Appl. No.: 389,576
[22] Filed: Feb. 14, 1995
[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A01H 5/00
[52] U.S. Cl. Plt./67.5

[58] Field of Search Plt./67.5
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[57] ABSTRACT
A new and distinct variety of *Raphiolepis indica* found as an
openly pollinated seedling of *Raphiolepis indica* ‘Jack
Evans’. The new variety is distinct with its large, thick,
coriaceous leaves, rust colored tomentose new growth, stout
stems, single, white flowers, improved cold hardiness, and
increased resistance to leaf spot and fireblight.

2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This new variety of *Raphiolepis indica* was found as an
openly pollinated seedling of *Raphiolepis indica* ‘Jack
Evans’, an unpatented variety, maintained in the Flower-
wood Nursery at Kelly Road, Loxley, Ala. The seedling was
found in May 1987. The new and distinct *Raphiolepis indica*
plant of this invention comprises a novel and valuable plant
of loose, broad-mounding form, an abundance of white
flower clusters, attractive rust colored new growth maturing
to large glossy bright green leaves, stout stems, improved
winter hardiness, and improved resistance to fireblight and
leaf spot. The new variety has retained many of the out-
standing attributes of its parent, in particular its tolerance of
heat, drought, salt, insect, and diseases which makes it
adaptable to culture in most of the Sunbelt States. As with
the parent plant, the plant of this invention, which has been
named ‘Conia’, may be advantageously employed as a
specimen appointment, a ground cover, in either formal or
informal groupings, and is quite attractive in mass plantings.
The plant serves well in foundation plantings and is adapted
for culture as a potted plant. This plant is responsive to
pruning and training and may be employed in forming
attractive hedges.

While evaluating the *Raphiolepis indica* ‘Jack Evans’
seedlings, attention was directed toward leaf spot and fire-
blight resistance. Any of the seedlings showing susceptibil-
ity to either disease were discarded. Cold hardiness was also
a very important criterion. Plants of this seed group, as well
as the parent, were evaluated in Alabama, Georgia, Florida,
and Washington D. C. during the winters of 1991 and 1992.
The new variety, *Raphiolepis indica* ‘Conia’ attained high
levels of cold hardiness and maintained this level through
the winter and into the early spring. This new variety showed
the least amount of tip dieback of the selections tested.

Asexual propagation of the new plant by cuttings has been
under Mr. Berry’s direction at Flowerwood Nursery in
Loxley, Ala. The increased number of plants were evaluated
and demonstrated stability of the new characteristics from
generation to generation. The plant cannot be reproduced
true from seed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguish-
ing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under
normal horticultural practices in Loxley, Ala.

1. Loose and mounding in nature. Plant is wider than tall.
2. Moderate to slow growth rate.

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3. New growth terminals are pronounced with a light rust
coloration which offers a novel and strikingly appealing
contrast of new foliage to old foliage in plants of this market
class.
4. Hardy to Zone 7.
5. Heat and drought tolerant.
6. Good plant for coastal areas because of wind and salt
tolerance.
7. Has shown good resistance to leaf spot and fireblight.
8. Relatively pest resistant.
9. Very desirable in planters.
10. Produces an abundance of large fruit in the summer
which persist into the winter.
11. Large thick coriaceous leaves.
12. Flowers are single pure white, fragrant, and profuse.
13. The stem’s caliper increases quickly.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The new variety of *Raphiolepis indica* is illustrated by the
accompanying photographic prints in which:

1. FIG. 1 discloses the loose, broad-mounding form.
2. FIG. 2 is a close-up of the single white flowers and the
rust colored new growth.
3. FIG. 3 shows the effective use and nature of use of the
new variety in an established landscape planting.
4. FIG. 4 is a side-by-side photograph of the parent variety
Raphiolepis indica ‘Jack Evans’ (on the left) and the new
variety (on the right). This photograph, which was taken in
the late summer, shows the loose, broad-mounding form, the
stout stems, and the large glossy bright green leaves of the
new variety.

The colors shown are as true as is reasonably possible to
obtain by conventional photographic procedures. The colors
of the various plant parts are defined with reference to The
Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart. Description of
colors in ordinary terms are presented where appropriate for
clarity in meaning.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new variety
of *Raphiolepis indica* based on my observations made of
plants grown in wholesale commercial production practices,
in greenhouses, and established landscape plantings in Lox-
ley, Ala.

Distinctive Characteristics:				
Characteristic	'Conia'	'Jack Evans'	'Snow White'	
Height (Mature)	3-4'	4-5'	2-3'	5
Width (Mature)	4-5'	4'	3-4'	
Leaf Length	2¼-3½"	2-3"	2-3"	
Leaf Width	1¼-1¾"	1-1½"	1-1½"	10
Leaf Color (Immature)	Yellow-Green Group 152A	Greyed-Orange Group 177B	Yellow-Green Group 144A	
Leaf Margin	Entire	Entire	Serrate to crenate	
Leaf Curvature	Almost flat	Tip reflexed	Slightly undulate	15
Flower	Single	Single	Single	
Flower Color	White Group 155D	Red-Purple Group 62B	White Group 155D	
Petal Number	5	5	5	20
Petal Shape	Obovate	Elliptical	Obovate	

The plant from which all above varieties originated has the botanical name Rosaceae *Raphiolepis indica*. The author of the genus name *Raphiolepis* is John Lindley (1799-1865). The original author of the species name *Indica* is Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) and the name was transferred to the plant *Raphiolepis indica* by John Lindley.

It is from the seedlings of the *Raphiolepis indica* 'Jack Evans' plant that I found the new plant. This new variety will be sold under the trademark name Olivia. It will be listed *Raphiolepis indica* Olivia TM 'Conia'.

Raphiolepis indica 'Snow White' is an unpatented variety which is very popular in the industry. It is comparable to the new plant in that both are low growing and have white blooms. However, there are many differences. The growth habit of 'Snow White' is more dense than the new variety. The mature leaf of the new variety is larger, darker, thicker, and flatter than 'Snow White' and the leaf margin is entire rather than serrate to crenate. The immature foliage of the new variety is tan and tomentose, whereas, 'Snow White' is light green and tomentulose.

Classification:

Botanic.—*Raphiolepis indica* 'Conia'.

Form: Loose and broad-mounding.

Texture: Coarse, rather stiff in appearance.

Size: In a period of six years from a rooted cutting the plant reaches a height of 3 feet and a spread of 4 feet. The plant normally grows at the rate of about 6 inches or more per year and reaches a height of 4 feet and spread of 5 feet at maturity.

Growth habit: Loose, mounding evergreen shrub. Moderate to slow growth under normal fertilization and moisture conditions.

Foliage: Alternate, simple, evergreen, thick, elliptical to slightly obovate, and vary in size from 2¼-3½" long and 1¼-1¾" wide. The margins are entire, with a petiole ¾-¾" long. The midrib is prominent on both sides of the leaf and the smaller veins are prominent on the underside. The base of the leaf is attenuates to cuneate and the apex is acute. The upper surface of the mature leaf is Yellow-Green Group 147A glossy and glabrous. The underside is Yellow-Green Group 146C and matte. The underside veins are Yellow-Green Group 146A. These mature leaf colors are persistant throughout the Winter. The immature

leaves are tomentose, noticeably pigmented, and are Yellow-Green Group 152A. The paired foliaceous stipules are ¾-¾" long and ¼-¼" wide. The upper surface is Yellow-Green Group 145A and the underside is Yellow-Green Group 145B. The stipules are caducous.

In 1993, the date of initial Spring growth was March 4, in Loxley, Ala. After the initial Spring flush there was almost continuous slow growth until Fall ending, October 28, also in Loxley, Ala. This growth pattern was identical to the parent plant. When grown in full sun, the internode length of this plant and the parent plant is ½-¾". When grown in light shade the internode length is ⅝-1". As would be expected either plant grown in shade results in a taller less dense plant with larger leaves.

Stems: The young shoots have a reddish pigmentation, Greyed-Purple Group 183B and are tomentose. The base of the immature petioles are also Grey-Purple Group 183B. After one or more years the stems are generally grey, Greyed-Purple 197B, glabrous and rugose. The pith is solid and uniform. The stem's caliper increases quickly as the plant grows reaching a diameter of ¾-¾" after one season's growth compared to the parent plant's stem caliper of ⅛-¾".

Flowers: Perfect, single, White Group 155D ¾" diameter, fragrant, borns on dense, upright tomentose, 3½-4½" high and wide terminal panicles from March to April. Each panicle has from 3-9 racemes which have from 1-10 flowers each, resulting in 70 or more flowers per panicle. The flowers are attached to short pedicels which are ⅝-¾" in length. The peduncle of each The peduncle of each raceme is from ¼-½" long. Each flower has 5 petals that are ¾" long and ⅝" wide, obovate, and have obtuse tips. The flower has from 15 to 20 stamen, ¼" long, with anthers Yellow-Group 9D. The pistil consists of 2 styles which are fused at the base or ovary. There are 5 sepals, Green Group 144B, which are united and have ciliate margins.

In 1993 the blooming period began March 14, in Loxley Ala. and ended May 2. Some blooms will appear in late May through October in southern Alabama.

Fruit: Drupelike pome, ⅞-⅝" diameter, 1 to 2 seeded berry. Summer fruit color Green Group 143B ripens to Greyed-Purple Group 187A in the Fall and persists as Black Group 202A attractively through the Winter.

Culture: Grows well in a wide range of conditions and tolerates sun to part shade. Grows in nearly any soil type, from moist to very dry and sand to clay. Responds well to mulching and medium applications of fertilizer; prefers ph 6 to 7. Very little pruning in needed. Adaptable to containers and above ground planters. Ideal for coastal regions and warmer parts of the Piedmont. Tolerates wind and salt spray. Propagated with semi-hardwood cuttings in late spring through the summer.

I claim:

1. A new and unique variety of *Raphiolepis indica* named *Raphiolepis indica* 'Conia' as herein shown and described, is characterized by its loose, broad-mounding form, large, thick coriaceous leaves, rust colored tomentose new-growth, abundance of single, fragrant white flowers and stout stems; the landscape value of this plant is increased by the improved cold hardiness and resistance to leaf spot and fireblight as well as its tolerance of heat, drought, wind, salt, insects, and soil type.

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FIG. 1

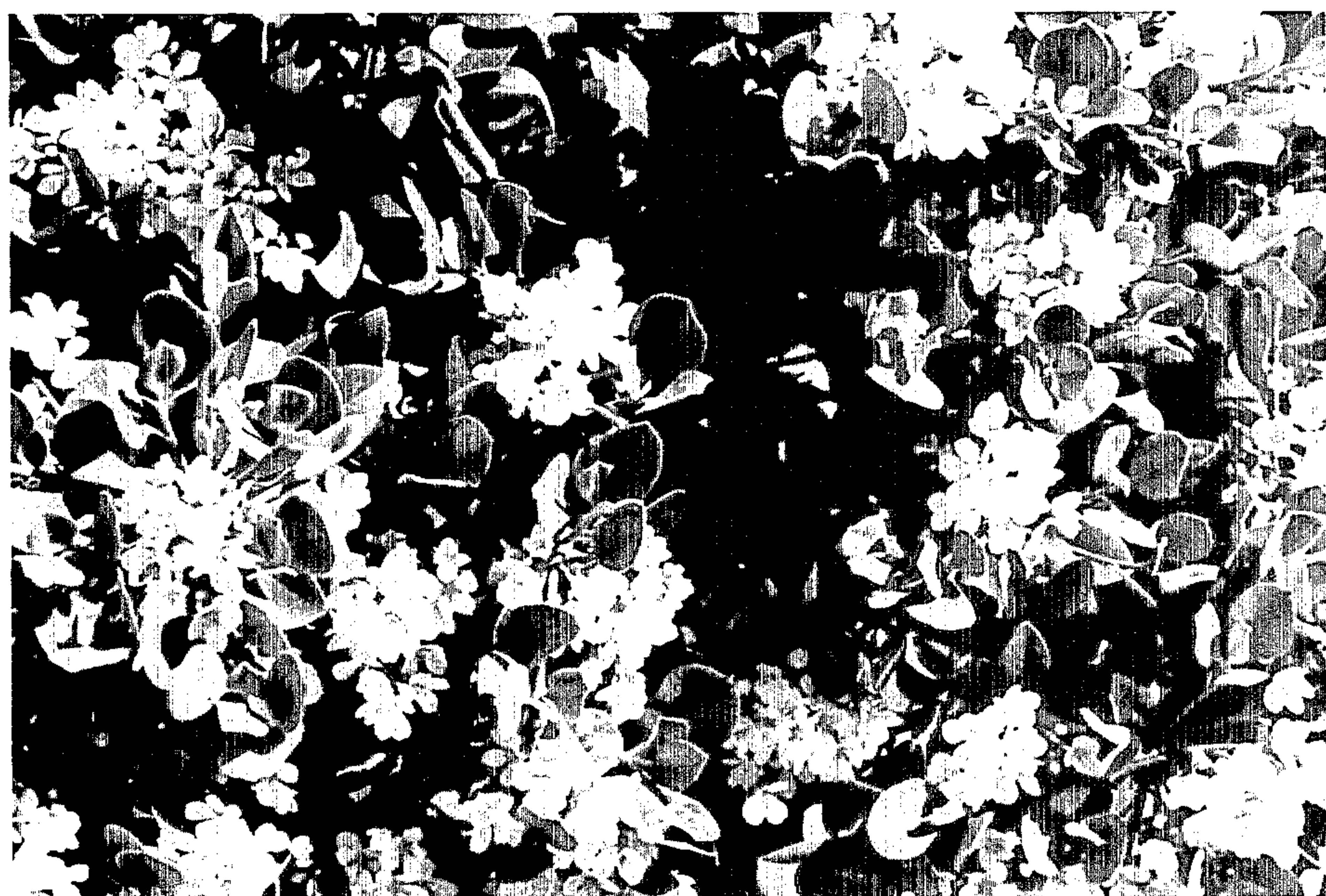


FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4