

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Dodd, III et al.

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(54) **VARIEGATED *ILlicium***

(50) Latin Name: *Illicium floridanum*
Varietal Denomination: **Gaddy**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct form of *Illicium* plant, characterized by
its pink flowers are variegated leaves.

4 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed:
Illicium floridanum J. Ellis *forma variegatum* Gaddy is a
pink-flowered, variegated-leaved form of *Illicium flori-*
danum (star-anise, Florida anise).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct form
of *Illicium floridanum*, referred to commercially as a Var-
iegated *Illicium*.

This invention has produced a new variegated-leaved
form of *Illicium floridanum forma variegatum*. It was propa-
gated by shoot from *Illicium floridanum forma albiflorum*
'Semmes,' a white-flowered nonvariegated-leaved form of
Illicium floridanum. *Illicium floridanum* J. Ellis *forma var-*
iegatum Gaddy is an *Illicium* having variegated leaves and
a light pink flower from the form of *Illicium floridanum*
(star-anise, Florida anise).

Table 1 gives data on various taxonomic characters of the
new form and typical *floridanum*. Characters seen in young
plants of *Illicium floridanum forma variegatum* not men-
tioned in the description of typical *Illicium floridanum*
(Vincent in Flora of North America, 1997) include asym-
metrical leaves, curved leaf tips (apices), pink flower color,
and leaf variegation. Differt a *Illicium floridanum* J. Ellis
foliis variegatis et floribus roseus. (Differs from *Illicium*
floridanum J. Ellis by its variegated leaves and by its pink
flowers.). In container-grown plants less than 0.5 meter tall,
leaves were significantly smaller than those of typical *illi-*
cium floridanum; however, this difference may be due to the
fact that these plants are young shoots. It was propagated by
shoot from *Illicium floridanum* 'Alba', variety 'Semmes,' a
white-flowered nonvariegated-leaved form of *Illicium flori-*
danum.

This invention has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary signifi-
cantly with variations in environment such as temperature,
light intensity, and day length, without, however, any varia-
tion in genotype.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This new variety is endowed with a unique combination
of traits which are determined to be the basic characteristics
of this invention which in combination distinguish it as new
and distinct, and materially contributes to its attractiveness.
Among its important and dominant characteristics are the
following: (1) the leaves of the new variety are variegated
having a gray-green color at the exterior edges of the leaf
and ranging from to a yellow-green to yellow at the interior
of the leaf; and (2) the flowers of the new variety are light
pink with the inner petals fading to a softer pink.

This invention is best compared to wild *floridanum*. A
comparison for the leaf and flower characteristics is shown
in Table 1 wherein it can be seen that the leaves both as to
size and shape are distinct. Also, the flower color is distinct
from the wild *floridanum*. The plant was 5 years old when
spontaneous mutation was found. That mutation is now 12
years old.

The flower color and leaf variegation of *forma variegatum*
has remained stable in offshoots from the original
variegated-leaved plant shows that the foregoing character-
istics come true to form and are established and transmitted
through succeeding propagation. The plant's winter hardi-
ness is USDA zone 6 and the drought/heat tolerance is
USDA zone 10.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying photographs show specimens of the
new variety, with their foliage and flowers in different stages
of development.

FIG. 1 is a close-up photograph illustrating the variegated
leaves of the new plant;

FIG. 2 is a photograph illustrating a cluster of buds of a
typical plant;

FIG. 3 is a photograph which illustrates a single flower of
the new plant; and

FIG. 4 is a photograph showing the plant.

The photographs of the drawing were taken Apr. 28, 1999 in Semmes, Ala. and illustrate the typical foliage form, with color as true as possible in this type of color photograph.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe plants of the new cultivar grown in Moncks Corner, S.C. in August, 1998. Color references are made in accordance with The Royal Horticultural Colour Chart of the British Color Council, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are obvious.

Origin:

Dodd & Dodd Nursery

Post Office Drawer 439

Semmes, Ala. 136575

Botanical classification: *Illicium floridanum*.

Parentage: Branch sport of *Illicium floridanum* 'Alba', variety 'Semmes'.

Commercial class: Ornamental; broad-leaf evergreen.

Propagation:

Type cuttings.—This plant has been asexually reproduced by means of semi-hardwood cuttings. All rooted cuttings have remained true to the new variety.

Time to initiate root development.—About 4 to 5 months.

Plant description:

Form.—Upright rounded shrub. Multi-trunked.

Height.—6 feet to 8 feet. Slightly shorter than the average for the species.

Trunk diameter.—Original plant — 3 inch diameter trunk.

Tree diameter.—2 foot diameter spread.

Bark color.—Brownish gray (RHS 199A), younger limbs dotted with varying numbers of small lenticels of color (RHS 199C); older limbs are without lenticels.

Internodes length.—About 2 to 3 inches.

Foliage:

Type.—Evergreen. Leaves mostly elliptic to lanceolate in shape. Apex acute to acuminate with leaf base cuneate.

Arrangement.—Alternate. In pseudo-whorls at end of stem.

Leaf size.—About 6.5–11 cm. long and 1.3–2.5 cm. wide.

Leaf shape.—Often asymmetrical. Entire.

Texture.—Leathery.

Aspect.—Smooth. Aromatic anise-like odor.

Color.—Variegated with the primary green of the leaves being a grey-green — Royal Horticultural Society 189A; variegated colors range from grey-green (RHS 188B) to yellow-green (RHS 144B) to yellow (RHS 3D), often with an admixture of the latter three colors.

Vein color.—Color RHS 190A.

Venation pattern.—Midrib evident but lateral veins not evident.

Abaxial surface color of the observed leaf.—Color RHS 189C.

Leaf petiole.—The length is about 1 to 2 cm.; the width is about 0.5 cm. and the color is RHS 191D.

Flower description:

Locality where grown.—Moncks Corner, S.C.

Blooming habit.—Has started to flower as early as late February in Moncks Corner and continued until mid-April. Peak times have been April 1st, with a tendency to repeat in summer and fall.

Continuity.—Continuous.

Borne.—Singly on a ½"–1½" pedicel.

Shape.—Round, 1"–1½" in diameter.

Fragrance.—Reminiscent of a wet dog or fish.

Sepals:

Number of sepals.—6.

Size of sepals.—1 cm. long, ¼ cm. wide.

Color.—RHS66C.

Flower.—20–30 strap-shaped petals, soft pink, ligulate.

Pollinated by a variety of insects.

Arrangement.—Single.

Shape.—Round.

Texture.—Thick, leathery.

Aspect.—Waxy.

Size.—1"–1½" in diameter.

Color.—Light pink (RHS66D) fading to softer pink (RHS69C).

Pedicels.—The diameter is 0.2 cm. and the color is RHS 149A.

Bud:

Size.—The bud is 1 cm. in length and ½ cm. in diameter.

Shape.—Globular with pointed tips. Rose-pink (RHS 60D).

Color.—Rose-pink (RHS 60D).

Quantity of bloom.—Abundant; outdoors.

Peduncle.—Length about ½"–1½".

Reproduction:

Stamens.—Number — 25–50.

Pistil.—Number — 11–21.

Seed/fruit.—One seeded, dehiscent follicles, 11–15 arranged in a whorl, ¾"–1" diameter, The seed capsule is first green (RHS 144C), then yellow (RHS 150A), and finally brown (RHS 199B), maturing in November. Has a star-like configuration, distinct, seeds BB-like, brown and shiny.

Resistance to disease/susceptibility: Resistance to disease has not been observed. The plant does not like full sun in the Southeastern U.S.

TABLE 1

<i>Illicium floridanum</i> forma <i>variegatum</i> and its relationship to wild <i>floridanum</i> . ¹		
	Wild <i>floridanum</i>	<i>Illicium floridanum</i> forma <i>variegatum</i>
LEAF LENGTH	5–21 cm	6.5–11 cm
LEAF WIDTH	1.5–6 cm	1.3–2.5 cm
LEAF SHAPE	Elliptic to lanceolate	Often asymmetrical
LEAF BASE	Cuneate	Narrowly cuneate
LEAF APEX	Acute to acuminate	Often curved
LEAF THICKNESS	Thin to leathery	Leathery
LEAF COLOR	Olive	Variegated
FLOWER COLOR	Maroon	Pink

¹Measurements for typical wild *I. floridanum* taken from Michael A. Vincent's treatment of *Illicium*, Pp. 59–61 In Flora of North America. 1997. Magnoliophyta: Magnoliidae and Hamamelidae. Volume 3. Oxford University Press. New York, Oxford. 590 p.

That which is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Illicium* plant as herein described and illustrated.

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FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.